THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 9 December 1997 (IR50p) 45p No 3,477

INSIDE TODAY

TODAY'S NEWS

Hope of breakthrough in Kyoto climate talks

Ministers from the United States, Japan and the European Union negotiated far into the small hours in Kyoto, trying to find a common position between the industrialised countries which could pave the way to a breakthrough at the stalled global climate talks in Japan. Afterwards a weary and taciturn John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, said there would have to be further talks today on the latest US proposals.

The group met after a day of soaring rhetoric and tough, cloistered negotiations which included an eagerly anticipated speech by Al Gore, the US vice-president. "I am instructing our delegation right now to show increased negotiating flexibility," he said. Mr Gore would not specify what "flexibility" America was offering, but it is understood that the US is now ready to cut its annual emissions of climate-changing carbon dioxide to slightly below their 1990 level by around 2010, instead of only stabilising them.

Kinza Clodumar, president of the tiny Pacific island of Nauru, put global warming in perspective when he said his low-lying country was threatened with "a terrifying rising flood of biblical proportions". **Page 5**

Evans buys Virgin radio

Chris Evans, maverick DJ and entrepreneur, has bought Virgin Radio from Richard Branson for a reported £80m. His bid was accepted last night ahead of that made by Capital Radio. Mr Evans will create Ginger Media Group to own the station; it will also produce Evan's Channel 4 show *TFI Friday*. **Page 3**

Social inclusion?

The Prime Minister yesterday launched the Social Exclusion Unit, a group of advisers working inside the Cabinet Office producing ideas and recommendations intended to break the cycle of poverty and crime that afflicts many estates. He said the unit's priority would be a sustained attack on truancy.

Our leading article wishes the unit well, but warns against being over-ambitious, and suggests that the Government should concentrate on a small set of solutions that are known to work. **Pages 7 and 17**

Five-day wonder: Baebhen Schuttke, the world's youngest transplant patient, makes her first public appearance with her mother after receiving a new liver when she was just five days old. Full story, page 3 Photograph: Mike Moore

Merger wave threatens thousands of banking jobs

Speculation that UK banking could be in for a major shake-out reached fever pitch yesterday with confirmation of a multi-billion pound deal between two Swiss banking giants. ***Lea Paterson*** **reports.**

The City was predicting last night that a link-up between Barclays and NatWest, with the loss of thousands of UK jobs, could be one consequence of the Swiss bank merger.

The Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) and the Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) confirmed that they were to join forces, creating the world's second-largest bank.

The 3,000 redundancies said to be on the cards in the City were more than had been expected. Highly paid traders, whose annual bonuses can top £1m, will be among the casualties, as will employees in both IT and finance.

UBS and SBC's decision to merge was prompted by a wave of mergers in the world of investment banking. "Mega-deals" this summer between a number of US banking giants has led many in the industry to believe that big truly is beautiful.

"The worldwide wave of consolidation in the financial services industry has made size an increasingly critical factor for any financial services provider with ambitions to be among the most successful players worldwide", said the Swiss banks, explaining their decision to link up.

Industry experts were predicting that the SBC/UBS deal was by no means the last, and eyes turned to British banks NatWest and Barclays, whose shares soared yesterday on speculation they could announce merger plans.

Both NatWest and Barclays recently admitted they were unable to become global banking giants, and sold off large parts of their investment banking operations at bargain basement prices. City commentators predict a merger could throw a financial lifeline to the two embattled banks. But any link-up between the two High Street giants would be at the cost of thousands of jobs.

The UK's competition authorities could prove the one obstacle to a link-up between NatWest and Barclays, which are understood to have had informal merger talks. However, legal experts said it was "unlikely but not out of the question" that the two banks could be given the green light.

Though staff in branches at leading UK retail banks often struggle to move jobs following waves of cutbacks and reorganisations, employment difficulties have yet to hit the glamorous investment banking sector. Investment banks create hundreds of instant millionaires each year during their lucrative bonus season, scheduled to start this week.

But recruitment specialists warned that, if the mergers continue, this year's "bonus bonanza" could be the last.

On cuts, rebels, and even those offshore trusts – Blair fights back

Tony Blair last night faced down critics inside and outside the party. He refused to 'bottle out' on the lone parents' benefit cut, and backed his Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, to the hilt. ***Anthony Bevins*** **and** ***Fran Abrams*** **witnessed a fierce fightback.**

The Prime Minister, ministers, whips – and libel lawyers – yesterday took concerted action to quell internal party dissent, and external attack on the central integrity of the Government.

While the *Sunday Times* and *Observer* received lawyers' letters demanding front-page apologies for allegedly defamatory articles about the personal tax affairs of Mr Robinson, the Prime Minister defiantly stood by his colleague and friend in a *Channel 4 News* interview – and told potential backbench Labour rebels that there was no alternative to making the proposed cut in lone parent child benefit.

Faced with a host of "worthy claims", from farmers and miners as well as lone parents, and a budget deficit that had to be tackled because of the burden of interest charges, Mr Blair said that if the Tory legacy was not tackled, people would say, "We bottled out; didn't take the right decisions; and ended up with the old boom and bust Tory cycle, and interest rates at 15 per cent, and borrowing out of control.

"Then you'd find it wouldn't just be cuts in single parents' benefit, or any of the rest of the things on the agenda, it would be massive changes to public spending as a result of having lost control of the economy. We can't do it."

Ministers and Labour whips were mounting a "good guy, bad guy" exercise as MPs returned to Westminster – with some of them intent upon rebelling against the lone parents' benefit cut in a Commons vote on the Social Security Bill tomorrow night.

Rebels predicted that between 20 and 30 MPs would vote against the Government and there was talk of more revolts to come – on disability benefits and on the creation of an elected mayor for London.

At least 120 Labour MPs are thought to be unhappy with the lone parents' measure, which will leave new claimants about £10 a week worse off from April.

Last night, Westminster rumours were rife that MPs were being asked to stay away if they could not bring themselves to support the Government. Loyalists were being asked to cancel other arrangements to ensure that they could be present. A select committee trip to Northern Ireland was postponed. A stream of backbenchers was invited to meetings with ministers, and some emerged encouraged by what they had heard.

However, others, perhaps those less likely to respond to the tea-and-biscuits treatment, were being approached by party whips. Brian Sedgemore, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, wrote to Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, describing the whips as "arm-twisters and goofie-crushers".

But Mr Blair's stand on *Channel 4 News* last night marked out his determination to remain firm on the need to bring the economy back to prudent balance – combined with an appeal to supporters to have patience, and faith.

As for Mr Robinson, his lawyers' letters showed he had the ability, and the financial clout, to look after himself. There is to be no Treasury support for his legal moves.

His lawyers told *The Sunday Times* that its weekend report, headlined "Robinson's Bermuda Tax Haven", was inaccurate and defamatory, adding: "Mr Geoffrey Robinson has never had any money, shares or any assets in Trust or otherwise held in Bermuda. Neither Mr Robinson, nor his wife, nor children are or ever have been beneficiaries of any Trust in Bermuda, or in any way connected with such a Trust."

The *Observer* allegations were more complex – suggesting that Mr Robinson was something more than a discretionary beneficiary of the Guernsey-based Orion Trust, as the minister had agreed in a statement on 29 November. The lawyers' letter said that was untrue and his earlier statement remained entirely accurate.

Mr Blair said last night: "In a society, you get two sorts: those that carp and are cynical about everything, and those that actually want to try and do their best, in an imperfect world, to make a contribution."

He said Mr Robinson was a highly-experienced businessman, and an extremely good minister, who gave his high-calibre services for no ministerial salary.

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2/BRIEFING

COLUMN ONE

Lobsterman steamed up about one that got away

The world was almost Bernard Warner's lobster (as Bobby Robson, the former England manager, once famously said, mixing up his seafood) but then he sold it.

The crustacean that is. Apparently pale and old, it turned out to be almost worth its weight in gold.

For by the time Mr Warner realised that the oversized, grey lobster fished out of the sea was in fact a rare albino, worth more than £20,000, it was too late.

He was on holiday in Madeira and the priceless crustacean had been boiled and eaten by some unsuspecting diner.

Mr Warner, 52, from Doncaster, south Yorkshire, had acquired the off-white specimen in a routine delivery from the East Coast. It was two and half times the size of an average lobster, weighed between two and three pounds, compared to the usual one pound, and was covered in barnacles. "The comments at the time were: 'We'll never sell that, because it's too big,'" he recalled yesterday.

Nevertheless, he sent it on to Mrs B's Fish Emporium in Doncaster, along with a batch of pink lobsters. A week later, in a restaurant in Madeira, he woke up to the true value of the rogue specimen. "We were passing comment on the price of a lobster," recalled Mr Warner, who has worked in the family business, Warner's Fish Merchants Ltd, for the past 40 years. "It was about £40 and we said: 'We'd never get that in Doncaster.' The manager said: 'What about this one?' and passed us an article about a similar looking albino lobster recently found in America."

Nippy customer: A normal lobster, examples of which fetch a decent price, but nothing like the riches Bernard Warner, a Yorkshire purveyor of crustaceans, would have come into had he not unwittingly disposed of a rare albino specimen

The fraught fishmonger sped to the telephone and rang his sister-in-law, Brenda, at Mrs B's. She was "quite proud" of the fact that she had sold the large lobster, he said. "I couldn't believe it. In all my time as a fishmonger I've never come across one before. I'm pig sick." His wife, Chris, was "gutted".

Mr Warner sells his lobsters to restaurants and private customers throughout the country and he has no idea where his prize catch went. Given that it was boiled at Mrs B's, it was probably eaten fresh - and the customer paid cash, so there is no invoice. "Someone has had a very valuable meal without even knowing it," he said. "For me it's like winning the lottery and then discovering you have thrown the ticket away."

The albino lobster featured in the article read by Mr Warner was found in Maine. At first it was dismissed as a plastic toy. Bill Coppersmith, the lobsterman who caught it, thought it was a practical joke. "It looked like someone had planted a toy in the pot," he said. Now "Lionel", as the lobster has been nicknamed, is being hailed as one of the rarest live finds in marine history and one private collector is reportedly offering £14,000 for him.

Mr Coppersmith is "real curious" to see what colour Lionel would turn if he was cooked, "but if he's worth that much, perhaps I can live with not finding out," he said. Another albino lobster, "Barry", which weighs 1lb 2oz, resides at the Sea Life Centre in Scarborough, north Yorkshire. Following the discovery of Lionel, the centre's owners woke up to Barry's worth. Barry is now insured for £20,000.

But none of that helps Mr Warner, who has resigned himself to laughing off his misfortune - and looking a little closer at his lobsters in future.

Clare Garner

CONTENTS

PEOPLE

Anne Atkins and her daughter Adelaide (below), who went missing at the weekend

Problems come home for newspaper agony aunt

Adelaide Atkins, 12-year-old daughter of Anne, the *Daily Telegraph*'s agony aunt and moral crusader, has sparked an intensive search after going missing.

There was a note on the kitchen table saying: "Back shortly, don't worry." Under Saturday's diary entry the child had written: "I depart today." Apart from her Post Office book, nothing else seems to be missing from her bedroom.

The scenario could have been plucked from her mother's column. But, rather than handing out advice, Mrs Atkins and her husband Shaun, a vicar, have been plunged into their own nightmare.

Police helicopters and dogs searched the Fulham area of London, near the family's home, yesterday looking for Adelaide. She was last seen at 9pm on Saturday when she went to bed.

At first the family were not too concerned but by 2pm they alerted police when Adelaide, described as a reserved girl whose disappearance is totally out of character, failed to turn up for church or lunch.

Adelaide is 5ft tall, slim with hazel eyes and mousey, with hair cut in a page-boy style.

According to Mrs Atkins she "did not have any particular problems. We keep thinking she'll walk in any minute, but the longer it goes on the more anxious we get. She's really not at all worldly wise and doesn't even like going on the Tube on her own.

"We are terribly worried. I deal with these traumas through my column but it's totally different when it happens to you."

Mrs Atkins rose to prominence after causing a stir on Radio 4's Thought for the Day when she condemned the Church of England for allowing a service for homosexuals at Southwark Cathedral.

Assault charge for Bobbit's former wife

The former Lorena Bobbitt, accused of cutting off her husband's penis with a kitchen knife in 1994, arrived in court yesterday to face charges of assaulting her mother.

Lorena Gallo, who has used her maiden name since her divorce from John Wayne Bobbitt in 1995, was scheduled to be arraigned yesterday. If she is convicted, she faces a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a $2,500 (£1,500) fine. Ms. Gallo's parents accompanied her to the courthouse.

Ms. Gallo, 28, (pictured right) had been living with her parents. Neighbours told police that her mother, 49-year-old Elvia Gallo, was watching television on Friday morning when her daughter entered the room and started punching her with a closed fist, police said on Sunday.

Elvia Gallo's son separated the two women.

She was arrested at a friend's house, and later freed on $750 bail.

Ms. Gallo, who has an unlisted telephone number, could not be reached for comment over the weekend.

Her mother suffered minor injuries, including an abrasion around the eyes and minor scratches, said police Lieutenant Paul Harris.

During her widely-publicised trial in 1994, Ms. Gallo said years of sexual abuse drove her to cut off her former husband's penis, which was reattached surgically.

She was found not guilty of malicious wounding by reason of insanity.

Mr Bobbitt, now 30, said last month that he was leaving a life of talk shows and porno movies and moving to the small town of Fallon, Nevada, where four of his five brothers live.

MP wins red light case

Ann Clwyd, the Labour MP, was yesterday cleared of driving through a red traffic light after staging her own reconstruction of the police case against her.

Mrs Clwyd positioned her car at a road junction in Cardiff and shot photos from the window to support her defence that two officers sitting in a panda car could not have had a clear view of her alleged offence.

The 60-year-old former shadow minister denied she was an "amber gambler" and told Cardiff magistrates' court that she was so convinced of her innocence she chose not to take the easy way out and pay the £40 on-the-spot fixed penalty fine.

Mrs Clwyd, MP for Cynon Valley and a former shadow employment secretary, was stopped by the officers last February, only two minutes away from her home in St Michael's Road, Llandaff, Cardiff after driving from the House of Commons.

Mrs Clwyd said she would lodge an official complaint with South Wales police about publicity given to the prosecution before the case came to court.

UPDATE

PRISONS

Inmates 'should be allowed alcohol'

Prisons should consider allowing inmates to drink alcohol – and even set up "simulated bars" – to encourage "sensible" drinking, according to an official report published yesterday.

The Prison Service's Health Advisory Committee said the lack of opportunity to consume alcohol behind bars was actually a disadvantage when it came to devising alcohol treatment programmes for some inmates.

It urged the Service to experiment with "imaginative" schemes so that inmates' progress in learning how to control their drinking can be properly assessed.

At the same time however, the committee called for a strict ban on drinking by prison staff while on duty. It said officers should be encouraged to go for lunchtime work-outs at the gym instead of downing a couple of pints.

For prisoners, the committee said there should be a series of "modular programmes" available, similar to those on offer outside jail, to teach them how to control their alcohol intake.

"The lack of opportunity to consume alcohol is a disadvantage for some treatment programmes," the report said. "Without access to alcohol the success of treatment and education cannot be accurately assessed."

While home leave provided some opportunity for monitoring a prisoner's progress, the report said that more could be done within jails.

"We recommend that the Prison Service should experiment with such imaginative approaches to the testing of sensible drinking and abstinence skills," the report said.

HEALTH

Baby joy turns to abuse for women

Expecting a baby should be a joyful experience, but for many women it brings only fear and the threat of violence.

The claim was made by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists which said that between 2-20 per cent of pregnant women arriving at antenatal clinics have experienced severe physical, emotional or sexual violence from their partners.

Violence could be triggered for the first time during pregnancy, or pregnancy may increase the frequency of violent assaults, it was claimed.

Certain gynaecological symptoms, such as pelvic pain, recurrent infection and sexual difficulties, were "significantly associated" with abuse.

The College was launching a programme yesterday to raise awareness of the problem among obstetricians and gynaecologists.

One aim was to help specialists identify and cope with the consequences of violence suffered by their patients.

CONSUMERISM

Trainers link to foot injuries

Wearers of expensive trainers may be injuring their feet because of manufacturers' misleading advertising, it was claimed yesterday.

Studies have shown that top-of-the-range shoes with hi-tech, shock-absorbing soles account for 123 per cent more foot injuries than the cheapest brands. Research at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, indicates a link between the injuries and "deceptive" advertising messages. People become reckless after falling for safety claims which emphasise advanced new features and the latest technology, the findings suggest.

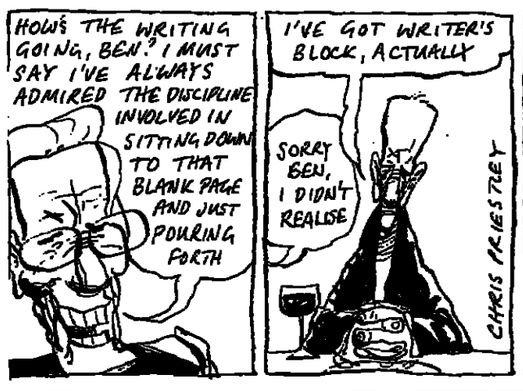
In fact, no athletic footwear, regardless of brand or price, has ever been shown to protect well against injuries, say the researchers.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.38	Italy (lira)	2,818
Austria (schillings)	20.12	Japan (yen)	212.50
Belgium (francs)	59.16	Malta (lira)	0.63
Canada ($)	2.29	Netherlands (guilders)	3.23
Cyprus (pounds)	0.84	Norway (kroner)	11.68
Denmark (kroner)	10.97	Portugal (escudos)	290.74
France (francs)	9.60	Spain (pesetas)	241.32
Germany (marks)	2.88	Sweden (kroner)	12.65
Greece (drachmei)	453.19	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
Hong Kong ($)	12.40	Turkey (lira)	315,823
Ireland (punts)	1.10	USA ($)	1.62

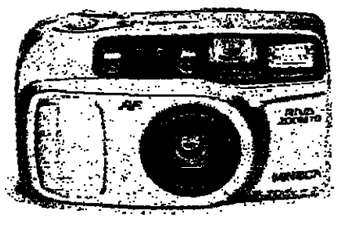
Source: Thomas Cook
Rates for indication purposes only

7.30 FOR 8 — by Chris Priestley



ZITS — by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

SIZE UP THE TALENT AT THE OFFICE PARTY.



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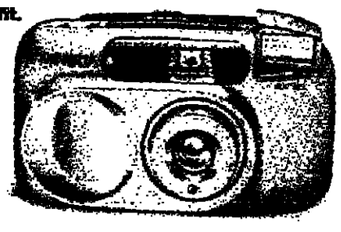

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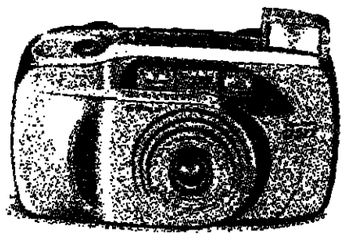

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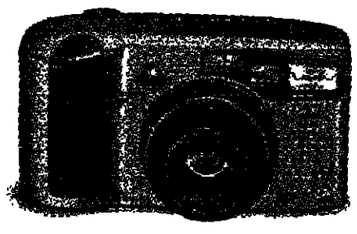

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Can £2,000 transform Polly? CITY+

My neighbour the porn star: LA Life THE EYE

Sheryl Crow: Still smilling THE EYE

What the smart 10-14 year old mustn't be without this Christmas FASHION

'Ginger Whinger' buys Virgin Radio from Branson

Chris Evans, the maverick DJ, yesterday snapped up Richard Branson's Virgin Radio, thwarting a rival offer from Capital Radio. *Cathy Newman* says the media industry was stunned that Mr Evans had finally put his money where his mouth is.

News emerged last night that Virgin had written to Capital, notifying the radio group that it had accepted an £85m offer from Mr Evans' Ginger Productions.

The DJ, who hosts Virgin's breakfast show and is known as the "Ginger whinger", has secured backing from Apax Partners, a venture capital firm, but is stumping up £2m less than Capital.

The deal will see the formation of the Ginger Media Group, an umbrella company overseeing Virgin Radio and producing programmes such as Mr Evans' Channel 4 show, *TFI Friday*.

Richard Branson said last night: "When we put this bold suggestion forward, the maverick in me was attracted to it. In talking with our staff and the public, it soon became obvious that the vast majority of people favoured this option – and so, although the total consideration was less than that offered by Capital Radio, I believed that Virgin Radio would have a more sympathetic partner in Chris."

News of Mr Evans' designs on Virgin first became public last month, after the DJ appealed on air for listeners to back his attempt to buy the station. Once Apax revealed it was backing the bid, Virgin said it was giving it serious consideration. Apax was a founding shareholder of Virgin Radio when it launched in 1993.

Mr Evans and Ginger's senior associates will own a 55 per cent share of the company. Apax will take a 20 per cent stake, and the remainder will be owned by Mr Branson and family interests.

Mr Evans said last night: "The Virgin brand has become one of the most powerful global symbols of energy, excitement and integrity. I am consumed by the challenges of developing Virgin Radio as a beacon for the British public's passion for music and appreciation of quality broadcasting."

Virgin's acceptance of Mr Evans' offer will stun Capital, though, which claimed last month it was "not concerned" by the turn of events.

Capital refused to comment yesterday. However, the news will come as a bitter blow to the company's new chief executive, David Mansfield, who had been trying to rebuild City confidence in the company. The market had responded negatively to the purchase of the restaurant chain, My Kinda Town, and the share price has dwindled from a high of 733p last year to 500p last night.

Capital has already come under serious pressure earlier this year when its purchase of Virgin was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC report, which had been due for release early next year, now looks certain to remain unpublished. It is thought the radio group will now focus on expanding into the regions.

Ginger winner: Chris Evans' offer appealed to the 'maverick' in Richard Branson Photograph: PA

Internet addicts may be damaging their health

"Information addiction" won't make you thin or fat; but it will eat into your free time, leaving you fretting on holiday and perhaps even surfing in bed. Are you at risk? *Charles Arthur*, Science Editor, investigates.

Alexander, aged 13, spent three weeks in the US on holiday this year. He wasn't altogether happy – it was the longest time he had been cut off from the Internet in ages. "It was quite frustrating," he said yesterday. "I've got friends around the world and I couldn't get messages to or from them."

Couldn't he send postcards to say he was in America? "Postcards would have taken a week to arrive, whereas e-mail just takes one or two minutes," he said dismissively. "An e-mail says what time it is and where you are."

Alexander, who lives in west London, may be one of a new breed: the information addict. A survey released yesterday showed that the growth of the Internet, and the enormous amounts of data it can provide, is creating a class of people who get a high from finding the data they want and feel itchy when they can't get connected.

A survey of 1,000 businesspeople in the UK, US, Ireland, Germany, Singapore and Hong Kong found that 80 per cent feel driven to gather as much information as possible to keep up with their business needs, and 43 per cent said they looked for work-related material when on holiday. Just over half said they "craved" information and the same proportion said finding what they wanted gave them a "high".

Mark Griffiths, a psychologist at Nottingham-Trent University who specialises in addictive behaviour, said: "Cravings, changes of mood, and conflict with other activities suggests that information can be addictive, though it needs more research to be definite.

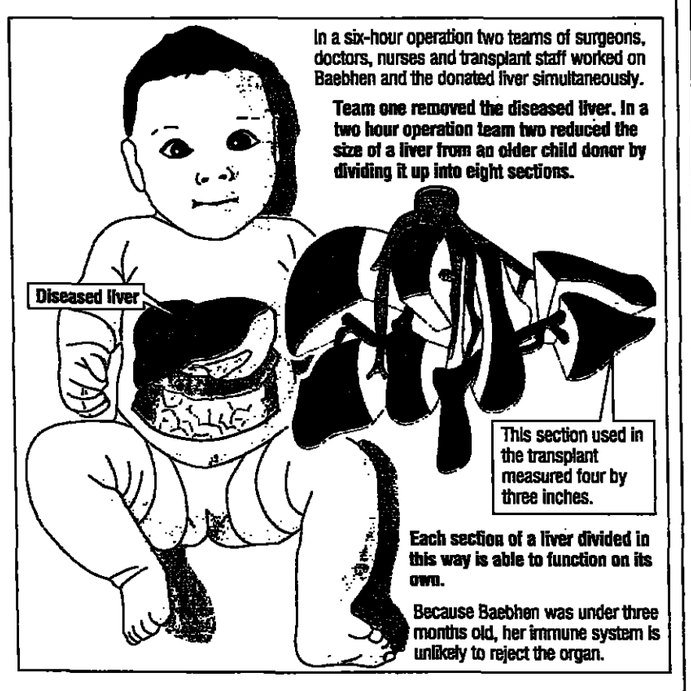
Mike Foster, of Reuters Business Information, which carried out the survey, offered three tips for spotting someone who is addicted to information.

"First, they come in to the office and the first thing they do is sit down at their desk and check their e-mail – they don't interact with other people there. Second are the cyber-versions of 'road warriors', with mobile phones connected to earpieces, and everything plugged in to their laptop. Third, if they surf the Net in bed."

Is there a cure? Actually, we may not need one, suggests Mr Foster. "The good thing is, children will be better placed than the current generation to deal with this, because they're growing up with this network. Parents should just watch out for their spending excessive time online."

Youngest transplant patient brings joy after tragedy for parents

The world's youngest transplant patient made her first public appearance yesterday after receiving a new liver when she was five days old. *Jeremy Laurance*, Health Editor, reports on a remarkable alliance of parental determination and surgical skill.



The parents of Baebhen Schuttke had already suffered a double tragedy when she was born last July. Their two sons both died soon after birth from a rare condition that resulted in liver failure.

Baebhen had the same condition and collapsed with liver failure 24 hours after she was born. She was flown to King's College Hospital in London where doctors said an immediate transplant was necessary to save her life.

By chance, the liver of a 10-year-old child became available and surgeons led by Mohamed Rela arranged to conduct the delicate and complex operation three days later.

Yesterday, Ita, 30, and Jurgen, 33, presented their sleeping daughter to the press and declared that she was a "completely normal five-month-old baby".

Accompanied by their five-year-old daughter, Aodhbha, they thanked their doctors – Mr Rela was the "surgeon of the century", Mrs Schuttke said – and appealed for more donors.

Mr Schuttke, who is originally from Westphalia, Germany, said: "The main reason we decided to go public was to thank the donors. Mr Rela has done an excellent job but without the organs you can't do anything.

"A tragedy in somebody's life may bring someone else happiness. It has made our Christmas."

Behind the celebratory tone, however, lies a harrowing story. When their first son died in Dublin, where the family lives, Ita, who is Irish, and Jurgen, were distraught – and perplexed by the absence of any clear diagnosis.

They searched medical libraries and the Internet for clues. They found a specialist in Pittsburgh, in the United States, who suggested the diagnosis neonatal haemochromatosis, an extremely rare condition caused by an excess of iron whose cause is unknown, and told them that King's College Hospital in London had the expertise that they needed.

When their second son was born, he was flown to King's and had experimental drug treatment but it failed. When Baebhen was born last summer the Schuttkes, who have another daughter, five-year-old Ava, knew that a transplant was their only option. Ita said: "We didn't think whether she was the youngest or the oldest [transplant patient]. Saving her life was our main concern."

The seven-hour operation involved transplanting a single lobe from the donor liver, one eighth of the liver's total size, but even this was too big to fit into the baby's tiny abdominal cavity. For two weeks the surgical wound was left open, covered by a dressing, until the liver had naturally shrunk to fit.

Mr Rela said: "The liver is an amazing organ. It will shrink to fit or grow to fit whatever cavity it is placed in."

The liver is made up of eight segments and the first part of the operation, which has been pioneered at King's, involved reducing it to one segment, a process that took over two hours.

Once the liver segment had been prepared, a second surgical team transplanted it into the baby in a lengthy, delicate procedure in which the surgeons practised microsurgery under magnifiers to attach the tiny blood vessels.

No signs of rejection have been seen and Baebhen is taking only minimal doses of immunosuppressant drugs because, at such a young age, before the immune system is fully functional, foreign organs are not recognised as alien. The liver will grow with the child, removing the need for further transplants as she gets older, and doctors expect to be able to withdraw the drugs altogether by the time she is five.

Surgeons at King's have performed 13 liver transplants on children below the age of three months and five below one month. The hospital is the largest liver transplant centre in Europe, carrying out more than 180 transplants a year, including 50 in children.

Mr Rela added: "This is the youngest child to get a liver transplant because she was lucky enough to get a donor. She would have died if she had not got a transplant within two weeks. She has done very well, and the liver is now adapting to her body and is growing normally."

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Hindley singled out unfairly, court told

The Moors murderer Myra Hindley launched a legal action yesterday against an order that she should remain in prison for the rest of her life. Her lawyers claim she has been singled out because of her notoriety. *Michael Streeter,* **Legal Affairs Correspondent, was in court.**

Myra Hindley was a victim of injustice because of the decisions by successive home secretaries that she should serve "whole life", effectively condemning her to die in jail, a High Court heard yesterday.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald QC, for Hindley said there was a suspicion that his client had been "singled out" for tougher treatment by ministers because of the circumstances and publicity surrounding her case.

Hindley, now 55, was sentenced to life in prison 31 years ago for the murders of Lesley Downey and Edward Evans, together with her co-defendant Ian Brady. Yesterday she sought to overturn the decision by the former Home Secretary Michael Howard and reiterated by Jack Straw last month that she should serve the life tariff.

Mr Fitzgerald told the High Court that Hindley and Brady were the only people whose tariff period of imprisonment – 30 and 40 years respectively – had been increased by the Home Office. He suggested that the policy of setting and then increasing such tariffs, which Hindley claims is unlawful, has been used solely to deal with her case.

He said that though the Home Secretary said last month that the life-tariff prisoners could be freed if they showed "exceptional progress" in jail, subsequent media interviews given by Mr Straw had shown that he was content that Hindley should serve the full period.

Such comments created a "expectation" among the public that Hindley would stay in prison until she died, an expectation from which it would be hard for the Home Secretary to retreat.

Mr Fitzgerald said that in increasing her tariff to life, first set in 1985, successive home secretaries had ignored the mitigation of her 1987 confessions in which she acknowledged her guilt and in which she acknowledged her involvement in two other killings. Nor had they considered "intimidation" against her and her family by her "mentor" Brady.

At the same time ministers had not taken into account a Parole Board recommendation that Hindley – currently in Durham jail – should be sent to an open prison.

Mr Fitzgerald said she was the only "secondary party" in a murder case to have been given a whole-life tariff, and with Rose West was only one of two women to receive it. Ministers had also failed to distinguish between the more serious actions of Brady and that of Hindley.

Hindley is challenging the legality of ruling by Mr Howard and now Mr Straw to put her on a life tariff, an increase on the 30 years she had expected.

She is also challenging the policy of imposing any such tariff for prisoners. Even under Mr Straw's promise to review cases where there was exceptional progress, she says this unlawfully fetters his discretion to release prisoners.

Mr Fitzgerald said his client was not challenging her sentence or conviction and nor was she asking the High Court to release her immediately. She simply asked that her case be dealt with on its merits.

Mr Straw has already indicated he will review Hindley's individual circumstances at the end of her judicial review. The hearing, which is expected to last three days continues.

An anti-Hindley protester outside the High Court yesterday Photograph: Enterprise News and Pictures

Brady turns against partner in crime

The Moors murderer Ian Brady yesterday claimed he had given his co-defendant Myra Hindley "cover" to help her get acquitted from one of their crimes.

Brady, who is serving life for the murders and says he will never apply to be released, sent the letter to Home Secretary Jack Straw on the day that Hindley began a High Court action to overturn a decision to make a "whole life" tariff prisoner.

In the letter, issued through a news agency, he says that Hindley, 55, and he had been in love and that she had regarded the killings as "marriage ceremonies theoretically binding us ever closer. He adds: "... Existential philosophy melded with the spirituality of death and became predominant. We experimented with the concept of total possibility.

"... Before entering the witness box I instructed both her counsel and my own to ask me specific questions designed to give the fullest opportunity of providing a cover for Myra. This managed to get her off on one murder charge I also told her to adopt a distancing strategy when she went into the witness box, admitting to minor crimes whilst denying major ... For 20 years I continued to ratify the cover I had given her at the trial whilst, in contrast, she systematically began to fabricate upon it to my detriment.

"Therefore, when I learnt from the *Panorama* programme this week that she was now claiming I had threatened to kill her if she did not participate in the moors murders, I considered that the lowest lie of all. The fact that she continued to write several lengthy letters a week to me for seven years after we were imprisoned contradicts this cynical allegation.

"... As for the parole board, I advised her to build on three pillars: educational studies, powerful contacts and religion. She did ... In the ... *Panorama* programme, former Home Office minister A Widdecombe stated there are 23 prisoners in the UK who will never be released. Why has the public heard so little of them?

"In this and other special hospital run by prison warders there are also patients no one has heard of, who have been rotting behind bars for 40 and 50 years for relatively minor offences. That puts the present loud debate over Myra Hindley in proper perspective ..."

— Michael Streeter
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Ministers fear motorists' backlash against toll roads

Charging motorists to use the roads is seen by many as the answer to Britain's looming transport crisis. But ministers appear to be shying away from road tolls. *Randeep Ramesh,* **Transport Correspondent, explains why.**

Ministers are keen in public to say the Government wishes to cool the public's passion for the motor car. But despite clogged streets and worsening pollution, in private they have dismissed road tolling. "It will take 10 years to get the infrastructure in place," said one. "It is not as simple as many people think. You run into problems such as just displacing traffic onto other roads. There is also the question of how much you charge."

It is understood ministers will instead tax "non-residential" parking to curb congestion and raise cash by cracking down on company cars.

This has not stopped other European governments pressing ahead with congestion charging schemes. Road-pricing schemes have been operated for more than 5 years in Norway and motorists in the Netherlands face tolls by 2001.

Officials have considered two forms of congestion charging. The first is motorway tolling, which ministers point out would involve "large capital costs".

The other, more likely option is for local authorities to set up "urban tolls". Many councils – including Edinburgh, Bristol and Aberdeen – have put forward innovative schemes suggesting congestion as a way of paying for public transport and road improvements.

And councillors have been supported by business. Charges of £5 on the A1, A19, A66 and A167 were recently suggested by the North East Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Industry.

"If we do not get road-tolling or some other scheme then we will see traffic in the area grinding to a halt," said Michael Bird, the chamber's chief executive.

What ministers fear is backlash from a public paying for a commodity – road space – that they took for granted as free. The Government will instead use the £400m Birmingham Northern Relief Road, which links the heavily congested M6 to the M42, as the litmus test for road pricing.

The 27-mile road will only be completed in 2002. No estimates for the level of charge have been made, but experts estimate the road will need to rake in £40m a year to pay for itself.

Train firms under cosh as passenger gripes rise again

Complaints by rail travellers nearly doubled this summer - pushing the figures to record levels, according to the passenger watchdog. About 4,500 complaints were received by the Central Rail User's Consultative Committee in the three months from July- a rise of 96 per cent on the same period last year.

"I am horrified that the level of passenger dissatisfaction should have grown to such an extent and so rapidly," said CRUCC national director Paul Hadley.

Information at stations and from national telephone inquiry bureaux topped the list of complaints, followed by reliability, overcrowding, on-train cleanliness, suitability of service and punctuality.

Train companies have fared badly - in part due to problems with the ailing rail infrastructure. In London, complaints reached an all-time high, with Connex South Central seeing the number of letters it receives rise by 158 per cent.

The West of England also suffered. The passenger watchdog received 1,240 letters in the first 6 months of the year, compared with 1,397 in the preceding 12 months. Mr Hadley said the figures "must set the alarm bells ringing. It is evidence of just how wide the gulf is becoming between passengers' expectations and operators' performance."

Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent

Council's homes challenge

John Prescott was last night facing a legal challenge over a decision to force West Sussex to accept the building of 12,800 more homes than planners think the county can bear. While the Environment Secretary is battling in Kyoto to save the planet from global warming he was accused of "concreting the countryside" back home.

The Government has issued a directive to West Sussex requiring the council to increase the planned level of new housing in its structure plan from 37,900 to 50,700 by the 2011. An independent panel which endorsed the council's lower figure said the character of West Sussex was "at a critical point".

Announcing the application to the High Court for a judicial review, the council chairman Ian Elliott said more homes would have a devastating effect on the countryside. "The 30,000 people who would live in the extra homes ordered by Mr Prescott would put even more pressure on the road network and significantly add to environmental pollution."

– Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

Missing teenager found

A man is being questioned on suspicion of abduction after the Essex schoolgirl Sally Claydon was found in Aberdeen. Police had been hunting for the 13-year-old since her disappearance on 16 November. Airports and ports had been put on alert amid fears that she may have tried to travel to Spain.

It was thought that Sally, who looked mature for her age, may have wanted to return to the Costa del Sol with a 47-year-old British man she met whilst helping in her mother's bar in Fuengirola.

Sally and her mother had returned from Spain on 3 November but the teenager disappeared two weeks later with nothing but her passport and summer clothes.

Karli: woman remanded

A mother-of-three was remanded in custody for seven days yesterday accused of the abduction of baby Karli Hawthorne.

Denise Giddings, 33, from the Langdon Hills area of Basildon in Essex, appeared before a packed magistrates' court in the town for a hearing which lasted just over half an hour.

Following a 45-minute adjournment, Nicola Moulds, chair of the magistrates' bench, returned to announce the court's decision.

Ms Giddings was handcuffed by guards as she left the court.

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Developed nations look to a free market in pollution

The final deal reached in Kyoto this week will open the way for a free market in trading in pollution rights between nations. *Nicholas Schoon*, Environment Correspondent, explains an extraordinary idea.

You are a country which has signed up to a legal treaty strictly limiting the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions you can produce each year. And you have a real problem - you know you are heading to break that limit in the next few years.

Perhaps one of your nuclear power stations has broken down, so you need to burn more greenhouse-gas producing coal to make up for the missing electricity. Or economic growth is expanding your use of fossil fuels faster than you expected.

So what do you do? You buy a load of extra permits to pollute on the open, international market at a few dollars per tonne of greenhouse gas. Then, when you do go over your limit, you are not breaking international law – for you have the permits to cover the excess.

The cost of purchasing them from overseas is cheaper than cost of cutting your rising emissions at home. The United States has insisted this kind of trading regime must feature in the Kyoto climate treaty for developed countries. It now seems certain to get its way, despite other nations and green groups having serious doubts. Economic theory says that free-market trading in permits guarantees to minimise the total costs of stabilising or reducing the global level of pollution.

In real life, the largest trial to date has taken place within the US through the 1990s. It applied to the acid rain gas sulphur dioxide produced mainly by power stations, and it seems to have worked fairly well.

Here is how it could work if, say, the Kyoto treaty set a target for developed countries to cut annual greenhouse gas emissions to 95 per cent of their 1990 level by 2000 - a fairly likely final outcome. Each country would be given permits sufficient to cover 95 per cent of the quantity of pollution it produced in 1990, to be used in the year 2010.

Those nations confident of being able to cut emissions by more than 5 per cent easily and cheaply would reckon to have surplus permits for that year. So they would offer them for sale, either on the open market or in private sale agreements with other governments, in 2010 or beforehand. Nations which found it too expensive or difficult to meet the target would want to buy them. But overall, emissions from the developed world would be cut by 5 per cent.

It gets more complicated. The permits would, in fact, cover several years of emissions rather than just one – and could be banked up for the future. Not only would there be a market in permits, but a futures or options market too – in which the players would be gambling on the future price of permits. In Kyoto this week, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, suggested the City of London get involved. But the EU and the green lobby worry about potential loopholes.

Russia and the eastern bloc have had enormous reductions in greenhouse gas emissions since 1990, thanks to economic decline. So if permits were allocated on a 1990 basis, that would give them a big surplus. The natural client to sell them to would be the US, the world's biggest climate polluter, allowing American greenhouse gas emissions to keep rising.

Furthermore, the trading regime would collapse if there was not strict monitoring and enforcement. Nations which polluted above their quota without having purchased the necessary permits ought to be severely penalised. But a watertight regime has not been negotiated in Kyoto.

The EU's view is that trading permits should only play a small part in lowering greenhouse gas emissions: what countries do inside their own borders must deliver the bulk.

Dr Daniel Dudak, of the US Environmental Defence Fund, is a leading advocate of pollution trading and guesses the price will settle down at around £2 for each tonne of carbon dioxide traded. "The permits are, in effect, a sovereign promise by a Government to perform – they're only as good as that promise. I have a lot of faith in the entrepreneurship that will come with trading."

Branching out: Japanese environmentalists trying to blend in to the landscape at a protest against greenhouse gas emissions — Photograph: Katsumi Kasahara/AP

Life's a gas when Carbonosaurus meets the tree people

SKETCH
BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Outside the Kyoto International Conference Hall, past the Gas Mask Please Tree and next to the Melting Ice Penguins, is a blood-curdling poster. Handwritten by South Korean environmentalists in brightly coloured felt-tips, it leaves little doubt about the horrid consequences if the COP3 environment conference breaks up tomorrow without an agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "Delegates," it warns, "We will make you Rowing Boats Slaves In the Water World If you fail to Stop Grobal [sic] Warming".

Whatever its consequences for the plant and animal kingdom, the threat of global disaster has had a marvellous effect on the world of non-governmental organisations. As the earth has got hotter and the ice caps smaller, green NGOs have become more numerous and energetic, and for the last nine days in Kyoto, they have been on display all their gorgeous biodiversity.

The 160 governments participating in the Kyoto conference have brought 1,500 official delegates between them, but they are far outnumbered by some 3,500 NGO members. Alphabetically, these range from Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development (A-Seed) to the Wuppertal Institute. Numerically they range from the Solar Electric Light Fund (sole delegate: Ms Laura H. Kosloff) to the Kiko Forum, a giant coalition of Japanese groups, whose 385 delegates easily outnumber the 98 officials from even the mighty United States. Each green group has its own goals, membership and tactics, but deep down all share the sentiment expressed in the Korean poster: a fervent willingness to shackle to the rollocks of the slave galley any government considered insufficiently green.

Strategies vary. The big NGOs, like Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the WWF are slick lobbying outfits with good contacts in the delegations and impressively deep pockets. Greenpeace's star attraction is the "Carbonosaurus", a 15ft-high, 3-tonne sculpture of a *Tyrannosaurus rex*, fashioned out of car exhausts, oil cans and petrol pumps as a "monument to stale technology". The ships and trucks which transport it around the world must generate a fair quantity of carbon dioxide themselves – but the creature, adorned with the name of loathed multinationals like Ford and Shell, provides the conference's wackiest sideshow.

All week, the smaller groups have staged a variety of stunts, demos and gimmicks. The Koreans were highly active over the weekend, carving a pair of penguins out of antarctic ice, and adorning the shrubbery around the conference hall with multi-lingual speech bubbles ("Gas mask please," beseeches one bush; "Your loophole is our noose," proclaims another). Greenpeace has been serving green coffee brewed from solar power heated water, and another group set itself the exhausting task of laying on music from a tape player powered by bicycle.

There is a Women's Caucus and a group of ecumenical clerics who blow a traditional Jewish horn to summon the faithful to prayers for the environment. There is a group called the G-21, consisting of 21 children from 21 countries, aged one to 21, who yesterday smuggled themselves past security to petition CO_2 cuts from a recalcitrant US senator.

The common language is English, but it is being stretched to its limits: an event over the weekend, apparently a lecture by a group of jazz-playing, mountain-climbing entomologists, was described in the NGO programme as "Akira Sakata Trio Live and Talk Himalayan Glacier, Take a Look at the Water Flea".

"Any agreement is better than no agreement, but we're in a difficult position," says Jonathan Wootliff of Greenpeace International. "We'd like to say that even a 5 per cent cut is good news. But we can easily be misrepresented, and the danger is that something will be agreed that will just let all the politicians go back to sleep again.

"People like us have got to make sure that they don't get away with it."

Prescott paints a greener and more frugal land

John Prescott told the climate conference that Britain aimed to cut its emissions of global-warming carbon dioxide by a fifth by 2010. In the second of a two-part series, *Nicholas Schoon* looks at what this would mean for our homes, transport, energy industries and towns.

The biggest changes will be in our homes and ways of travel. Almost all housing will need surgery if the 20-per-cent cut is to be made. Not only double glazing but special low-emissivity glass will have to be installed. Insulating foam will be pumped between the internal and external walls of the 9 million homes which have cavity external walls - today this insulation is a rarity. Houses with central heating will have to have more efficient, and expensive, gas-condensing boilers and electronic controls.

Tougher standards will also be set for electrical appliances, with the biggest carbon-dioxide savings coming from replacing refrigerators and freezers with more frugal models. The Government's Energy Saving Trust has drawn up a programme for households which would go a fifth of the way towards making the 20-per-cent cut. An extra £70m a year would have to be pumped in, as Government grants or by a 2-per-cent levy on household fuel bills.

Road traffic accounts for 22 per cent of UK carbon dioxide emissions and is rising. The White Paper on an integrated transport policy, due soon, will show how serious ministers are about making the 20-per-cent cut. As well as raising petrol and diesel duties, there will need to be a package of measures including such things as road tolling or restrictions on road space for private cars, taxes on office-car parking and final elimination of the company-car perk. Fuel-thrifty cars will need cheaper tax discs than gas guzzlers and there needs to be an incentive for scrapping old, highly polluting cars. Together, such measures would encourage the manufacturers to develop and market much more fuel-efficient cars, and people to walk or use bicycles for shorter journeys.

The electricity and gas industries industries will have to change too, with the Government continuing to encourage non-polluting sources such as wind power. Already these renewable sources provide electricity equivalent to one big coal-fired power station, but that will have to more than double. Regulation of the gas and electricity industries also has to be reformed: the requirement is for less emphasis on driving down prices and more on incentivising businesses and homes to install energy-saving equipment. Better terms are needed for mini-electricity generators who make cleaner, greener power and sell some of it into the grid.

In planning, there will have to be more restrictions on sprawling out-of-town and edge-of-town development of homes, offices, shops, leisure facilities and factories: these are hard to serve by public transport and encourage longer car journeys. If the Government moves ahead with the programme needed to make the 20-per-cent cut it will face opposition and controversy.

But there will be winners as well as losers: it could help Britain gain new export markets for energy-saving technologies and create more jobs than it destroys. It will take two Parliaments to implement the programme, with an immediate start. The greatest challenge it faces is to keep the public's trust and support for the duration.

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Commercial and public services – 6 per cent.
Oil refineries, iron and steel – 9 per cent
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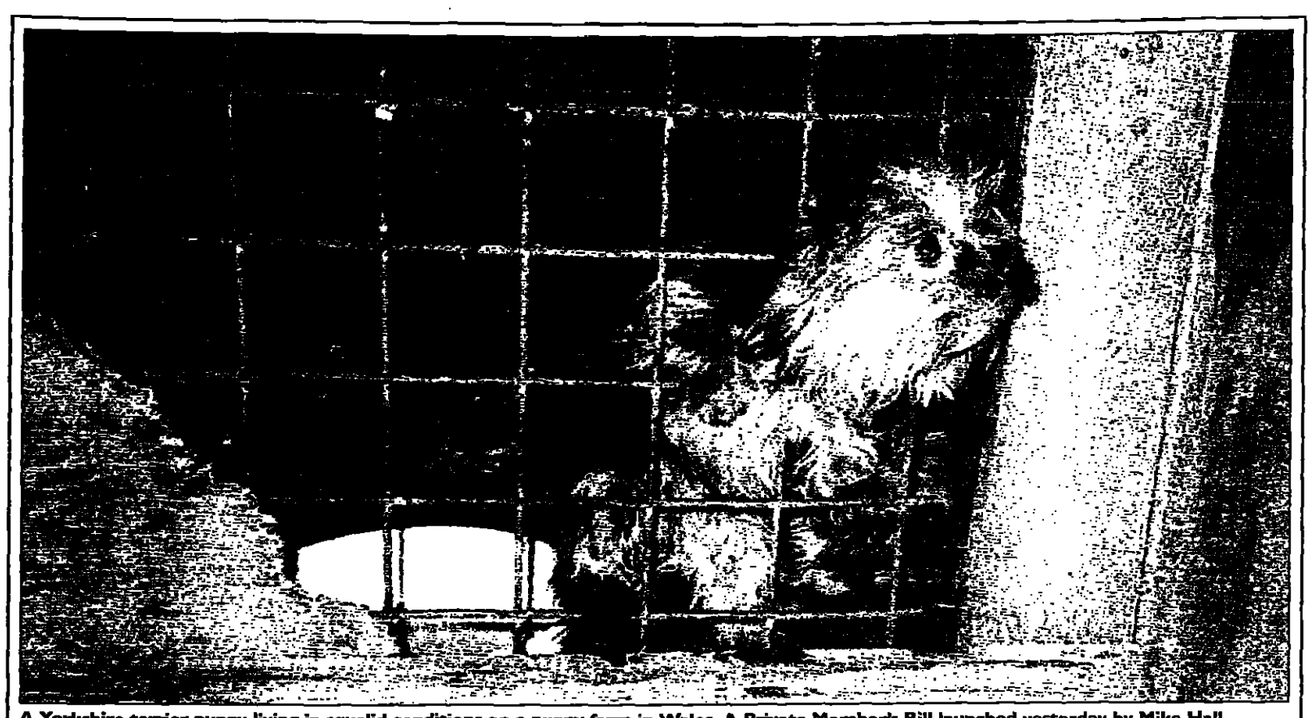

A Yorkshire terrier puppy living in squalid conditions on a puppy farm in Wales. A Private Member's Bill launched yesterday by Mike Hall, Labour MP for Weaver Vale, aims to shut down illegal farms and improve welfare standards among the registered commercial breeders

Social partnership trial ends in failure

Ministers are facing considerable difficulties in their attempts to involve unions and employers in policy-making. *Barrie Clement*, Labour Editor, looks at disagreements over a law on union recognition and the flagship New Deal programme for the unemployed.

The Government's first experiment in Continental-style "social partnership" between capital and labour ended in failure yesterday on the issue of union recognition.

Union leaders and the Confederation of British Industry conspicuously failed to reach a consensus on how a law enforcing employment representation at work might be drawn up.

Ministers' relationship with unions also came under strain over the Government's New Deal for the unemployed which came under fire from workers' leaders for introducing benefit penalties for those who refused to participate in programmes.

On union recognition, the TUC and CBI struck deals on points of little contention, but there was no agreement on the most critical elements.

John Cridland, of the CBI, urged the Prime Minister to think again over the intended legislation, declaring that legally-backed recognition would not work.

John Monks, the TUC's general secretary, described as "ridiculous" some of the positions taken up by employers' leaders.

In particular the two sides failed to agree on what constituted a "majority" when voters were deciding on recognition. Labour's election manifesto stated that unions should be recognised where a majority of workers voted for it.

The TUC contends that it should be a majority of those voting, while Adair Turner, director-general of the CBI, argues that it should be a majority of all those eligible to vote. While the CBI believes that such a test was needed to prove the case, Mr Monks pointed out that few governments enjoyed such a degree of endorsement from the electorate.

"If 60 per cent vote for union recognition in an 80 per cent turnout, that should figure recognition. If it failed to do so, it would lead to desperately bad industrial relations and a recipe for conflict," he said.

And in a Continental-style attempt at social partnership the TUC and CBI were to develop a joint paper on the issue, but they have failed to do so. Mr Monks and Mr Turner will today present their submissions to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

Another point at issue is employers' insistence that there should be 30 per cent support from the relevant employees before a ballot on recognition was triggered. Mr Monks said, however, that such a mechanism begged the question of what was the "relevant bargaining unit".

Other conflicts emerged over the CBI's insistence that small business should not be involved; that pay, hours and holidays should be subject to negotiation, but not training and there should be a ban on industrial action in support of recognition.

Former MP faces Hague crackdown

A senior former Tory MP, Sir John Gorst, is facing expulsion from his party today in a crackdown on local party rebellion by William Hague.

A Conservative Party hearing is expected to recommend the dissolution of Sir John's Hendon association, effectively expelling its members.

Tory officials are insisting the move follows alleged irregularities. But Sir John said last night it was a move to punish the party for supporting him in voting against the past government over the closure of a casualty unit.

"This is a test case. It is about how the Tory Party is government and whether the grass roots has the right to speak up for the grass on which they live," he said.

"This is a cynical operation using a handful of malcontents to ensure that those who voiced dissent are snuffed out of politics. If party headquarters succeeds, you can say goodbye to independent Conservative MPs and local parties." On 1 May, Sir John lost his seat to Labour after 25 years.

The chairman of the association is George Ward, the head of the Grunwick processing firm, which was involved in a lengthy trade union battle in the 1970s. Mr Ward last night confirmed he had recruited to the party association his two sons and a number of employees, some of whom lived many miles outside the constituency.

But Mr Ward denied any impropriety in recruiting from his own workforce. Mr Ward, who pays Sir John a retainer, accused Mr Hague's leadership of producing a "new climate of intolerance"

— Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

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BARCLAYS

Blair puts parents in firing line over school attendance

Cutting truancy and school exclusion rates were made the "top priorities" as the Government launched its Social Exclusion Unit yesterday. The Prime Minister promised a return to "one nation values" but, as *Glenda Cooper* and *Colin Brown report*, Tories also accused him of "wealth distribution on the sly".

Nehary Green, 16, from Stockwell Park Secondary School, standing with Tony Blair at the opening of the Social Exclusion Unit in Lambeth, south London, yesterday
Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Parents could be fined up to £1,000 if they fail to make sure that their children are attending school, the Government warned yesterday as its Social Exclusion Unit was launched by the Prime Minister.

At the launch at Stockwell Park School, in Lambeth, south London, Tony Blair described the unit as one of the "most important new initiatives of this government", which he hoped would achieve "Britain rebuilt as one nation".

"Social exclusion is about income, but it is about more," he said "It is about prospects and networks and life chances. It's a very modern problem and one that is more harmful to the individual, more damaging to self esteem, more corrosive for society as a whole, more likely to be passed down from generation to generation than material poverty."

Mr Blair said that truancy and school exclusions were the "top priority" for the unit as Estelle Morris, the schools minister, said yesterday that education welfare officers "should not be afraid to prosecute [parents] wherever ... appropriate".

Maximum multiple prosecutions could mean fines as high as £1,000 for persistent offenders. "Persuasion works with some families but not all," she said.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, also unveiled £200m plans for after-school homework clubs, to help children unable to study at home.

Mr Blair gave the clearest signal so far that his government is seeking to redistribute wealth through the unit. Downing Street said the speech was aimed at "nailing the myth" that the Blair government is not making any difference to ordinary lives in Britain. But Mr Blair's speech was immediately attacked by senior Tories as part of an agenda to achieve wealth redistribution "on the sly".

"This isn't just about compassion," said Mr Blair. "It's also about self-interest. If we can shift resources to preventing [problems], there will be dividend for everyone."

The launch of the unit follows a series of initiatives which will redistribute resources from the rich to the poor. These include the establishment of health action zones, where money will be targeted at deprived areas; the introduction of Individual Savings Accounts with cuts in tax relief for owners of PEPs worth more than £50,000; and a review of the welfare state.

The cuts in tax relief on PEPs led to criticism that the Government was attacking the middle classes. The criticism was fuelled yesterday with a report that the middle classes will lose out from a review of spending which is considering taxing child benefit and means-testing prescriptions and state pensions.

Appearing to refer to the growing row over benefit cuts to lone parents, Mr Blair said yesterday: "We are accused of breaking promises we never made ... So let me spell it out again. We can't do it all at once. It will take time."

Exclusion: What the students think

Rashad Ahmed, 18, is studying for a BTEC in computing at Havering College in Hornchurch, Essex, while working part-time in a shop in Canary Wharf. He worries that an earlier exclusion "for smacking this geezer in the mouth" may jeopardise his chances of finishing the course.

"He was calling me names and punching me. He was getting on my nerves, so I hit him. I would have been prepared to sit down with him and work it out, but both of us were excluded for fighting – he wasn't allowed back. I just sat at home and did my assignments. I got more done that way, but it's boring at home. I'd rather have worked in the classroom.

"I was used as an example. My current course leader thinks I'm trouble. I think he wants to kick me out. I'm not normally a bad boy. My classmates think I'm a trouble-maker. I tried harder to be good when I got back, but you can't help being yourself. What I did was stupid, but all this is unfair. If I was a teacher, I'd counsel pupils one on one and see how they progressed, help them get along. I've since met the boy I hit and we just started talking, we sorted it out. It's a shame that didn't happen sooner."

Jonathan Lyle, 16, who was excluded six or seven times while he was at secondary school, agrees that teachers need to develop a different relationship with their pupils if exclusions are going to be cut. He now works as an accounts assistant at Barclays Bank in central London.

"I started getting excluded in the first year at secondary school for something like fighting. It degenerated from there because I got a bad name for myself. Although I consistently achieved good results, teachers took every opportunity to knock me down.

"Being excluded didn't change my behaviour at all, it just turned me off education. Why do you think I left school at 16 to work?"

Names have been changed.

● *Report by Children's Express, a programme of learning through journalism for children aged 8 to 18.*

Ahern and Trimble mend bridges

The Dublin government and the Ulster Unionists yesterday appeared to repair recent damage inflicted on their relationship with a cordial meeting at the multi-party talks at Stormont.

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, also broke new ground during his visit to Belfast by becoming the first serving Irish Prime Minister to enter Belfast City Hall, once regarded by Catholics as a bastion of Unionist domination.

But the main focus of attention was the encounter between Mr Ahern and Mr Trimble at Stormont. The two politicians had a successful meeting several weeks ago, following which both sides indicated they believed they could do business together.

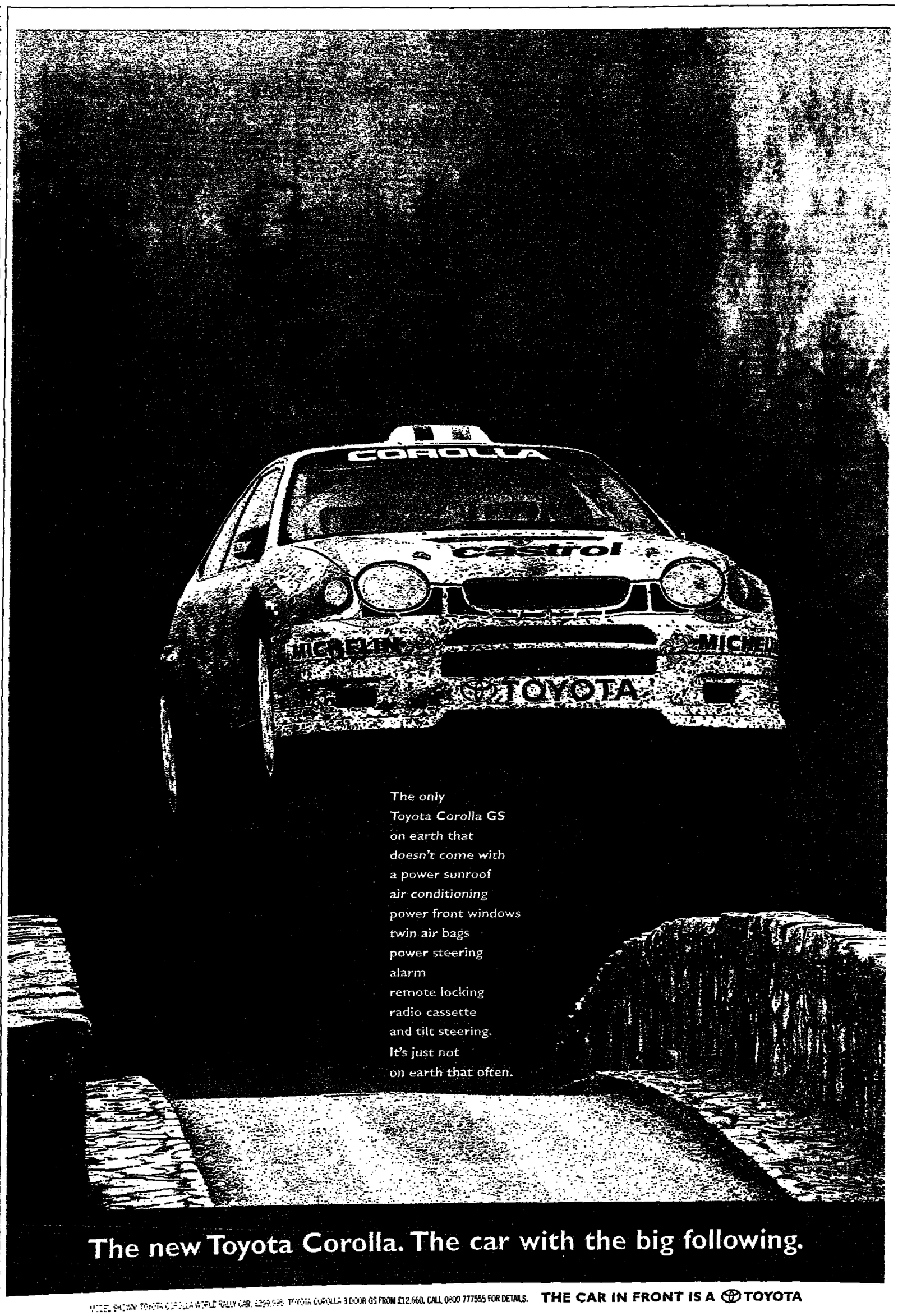
The developing relationship took a blow last week, however, when Unionists took strong exception to comments from Mr Ahern's recently-appointed foreign minister, David Andrews, who raised their hackles by saying that a proposed new cross-border body would have powers so wide that it would be "not unlike a government".

Mr Trimble said: "We had a discussion which was reasonably friendly but also fairly forthright. I think we agree that we put last week and the rather unfortunate remarks behind us." Mr Ahern commented: "People are clearly focusing now and getting in detail. Every single party has an air of confidence that we are moving in the right direction."

In one potentially ominous development, however, the sister of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands has gone public with a challenge to Sinn Fein's involvement in the peace process. Bernadette Sands McKevitt told RTE: "What is now on offer is more or less a modernised version of partition. So therefore we feel it is not actually a solution. I would be fearful for future generations. We want to raise the awareness of the public to the situation. At the moment it is early days."

She has helped establish the "32 County Sovereignty Committee" in the hope of attracting more dissidents from Sinn Fein. In her radio interview she strongly denied reports that she had been a senior member of the IRA.

— *David McKittrick*



Children sent to formal school too early, says minister

A senior Labour figure yesterday urged the Government to be more radical in its plans for raising standards in schools. *Judith Judd,* Education Editor, listened to the views expressed at a Fabian Society seminar.

Children are failing to learn to read and add up because they are being sent to formal school too young, the seminar heard.

The senior Labour figure said: "We have too many four-year-olds in schools and there is a growing body of evidence that we have got it badly wrong. Is there a link between poor literacy and forcing kids to start school too young?"

In countries such as Hungary, Switzerland and Flemish-speaking Belgium which were more successful in teaching literacy and numeracy than Britain, formal teaching of the three Rs did not start until children were six or seven.

Before six or seven they had a structured curriculum but it did not include reading, writing or arithmetic. They were taught skills such as speaking, paying attention, listening, using their memory and motor skills, said the figure, who cannot be named because of the rules governing the seminar.

In Switzerland, parents can choose not to send their children to school at six and 15 per cent wait until they are seven.

By next September, the Government has promised, every four-year-old will have a nursery, playgroup or school place. Local authorities are drawing up plans to achieve this, but first signs are that most four-year-olds will continue to be taught in reception classes. The Department for Education said yesterday that a quality assurance consultation on all early years provision would take place in the New Year.

Ministers are piloting early years centres of excellence which will bring together services for the under-fives.

One expert at the seminar said that other countries such as New Zealand which began reading early tended to have the same difficulties as Britain: a wide gap between children at the top and bottom and poor performance in literacy and numeracy.

Some of the worst offenders were independent prep schools. "They try to get on with these things far too early. Lots of children are damaged and have to be catered for in the state system."

During a discussion on private schools, the senior Labour figure, who supports most of the Government's education initiatives, urged ministers to use the threat of the removal of charitable status as a stick with which to beat private schools.

Two weeks ago, ministers announced a new partnership with independent schools and promised not to support the removal of charitable status.

The figure said: "I would go much tougher than the Government on charitable status. Charitable status goes back to 1603 when all education had a charitable purpose. Now that we have universal state education we have to question whether it remains relevant."

Ministers have emphasised that private schools will not be forced to form partnerships with state schools though they hope some private schools will help prepare some state school pupils for Oxbridge and in minority subjects.

Missing girls safe and well

Six schoolgirls lost overnight in atrocious conditions on Dartmoor sang songs as they huddled together for warmth in a three-person tent while rescuers were looking for them, it emerged yesterday.

They bedded down for the night in the wilderness north of Princetown, hours after they got lost in mist and driving rain.

They walked off the moor yesterday near Postbridge – their original destination on a 12-mile hike – as a search by two helicopters and 120 members of the Dartmoor Rescue Group, some with dogs, resumed.

The youngsters, all 14- and 15-year-old pupils at Torpoint school, south-east Cornwall, were on a school hike aimed at developing map-reading and orienteering skills.

They were named by the school today as Debbie Curran, Caroline Baker, Emma Matthews, Becky Goodman, Jade Bonitto, and team leader Charlotte Clare.

Caroline Barker said the weather was "*really bad*" as they set off for the checkpoint on Conies Down Tor. "We seemed to be walking for ever and ever and just missed it."

When a pre-arranged escape route did not work, they pitched camp. "All six of us were in a three man tent," said Caroline. "It was pouring with rain, and we started singing songs to keep us warm."

Going home: Four of the six girls returning home yesterday. (l-r) Caroline Barker, Becky Goodman, Charlotte Clare and Debbie Curran Photograph: PA

Scots farmers end protests as beef talks are agreed

Scottish farmers yesterday agreed to end their ports protests after a setting talks with Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar, on 16 December.

But the blockades were continuing at other ports with the biggest yet organised at the port of Liverpool last night.

Farmers leaders urged protesters to "keep up the pressure" on the Government as they launched a major campaign to win public sympathy for their cause.

Adverts placed by the National Farmers Union are due to appear in national press today urging shoppers to buy British and to sign a petition calling on the Government to come up with a package of measures to alleviate the crisis

The NFU president Sir David Naish said in London yesterday that the Government could end the problems "overnight" by agreeing to apply for £980m of aid to compensate farmers for the strong pound.

Damages for hospital fall

A mental patient who tried to kill herself by jumping from *the eighth floor of a hospital is to receive £145,000* compensation for the crippling injuries she suffered. Lawyers for Maxine Griggs, 38, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, accused North Hertfordshire NHS Trust of negligence in allegedly failing to keep her under proper supervision.

Christopher Gardner QC, for Mrs Griggs, told Mr Justice Eady, a High Court judge, that she heard voices urging her to kill others or harm herself. In April 1992, while an involuntary patient at Lister Hospital, Stevenage, she was allowed out of her ward under a "good-behaviour contract" to buy a newspaper. Instead, she jumped from the eighth floor; her injuries included spinal, ankle and shoulder fractures.

Phone cut-offs to be halted

Customers who do not pay phone bills will be restricted to incoming calls only instead being cut off, the industry watchdog said. Oftel said it hoped the deal, agreed with the tele*phone companies, would mean disconnection for debt* became a thing of the past. Under the deal, customers who owe money will be given the option of having all calls out blocked except those to the emergency services and the operator while they pay off their debts.

DAILY POEM

An Academic

By Norman MacCaig

You sit at your fat desk, starching
your brains; you're the tone-deaf man
in the orchestra, you're the frog
who wouldn't a-wooing go.

What a job is this, to measure
lightning with a footrule, the heart's
turbulence with a pair of callipers.
And what a magician, who can
dismantle Juliet, Ahab, Agamemnon
into a do-it-yourself kit
of semantic gestures.

Tidiness is decent. Trains
have to reach their destinations.
But yours, that should be
clattering and singing
through villages and landscapes, never
gets out of the shunting yards.

I'm a simple man - I believe
you were born, I believe it
against all the evidence.
I would like to give you
a present of weather, a
transfusion of pain.

This week's poems celebrate the work of the Edinburgh poet Norman MacCaig, who was born in in the city in 1910 and died there in 1996. They come from his Selected Poems, edited by Douglas Dunn and recently published by Chatto & Windus (£8.99).

Plan to clear waste from nuclear reactor shaft

Old laboratory coats and centrifuges, stainless steel tubes, canned radioactive strontium, lead bricks, empty boxes are all in the Dounreay Intermediate Level Waste shaft – along with amounts of highly radioactive materials. The experts' advice is get it out. *Charles Arthur,* Science Editor, reports.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) is waiting for the Department of Trade and Industry to approve an ambitious plan which would end growing fears of a second explosion in the Dounreay fast breeder reactor's disposal shaft.

Among the most popular suggestions is one that the water-filled shaft, 65.5m (215ft) deep, should be frozen, and the *contents – reportedly including* enriched uranium and plutonium – lifted and removed.

This suggestion, from an international consortium led by the nuclear engineering company Dames & Moore, is the most radical, yet logical, on the table. It would mean that the relative positions of waste in the shaft would change minimally. That would reduce the risk of an explosion that could otherwise scatter radioactive material over a huge area of the Scottish coast.

The simple alternative, of sealing the shaft, would be cheaper in the short term. But in the long term it carries the severe risk of leaking radioactive material into the water table and the sea, as water permeates into the shaft.

Either option will take up to 20 years and cost several hundred million pounds, said a spokesman for the UKAEA yesterday. He declined to say whether the UKAEA had suggested removal or sealing, but independent experts agree that removal is far more sensible than leaving the waste there. A study in 1994 by AEA Technology, an independent consultancy, concluded that "doing nothing is not an option".

The material crammed into the shaft has already exploded once – on 10 May 1977. The explosion had such force that a concrete plug 24 metres from the bottom was blown up the shaft, where it broke through the concrete cover, showering the adjacent beach and area with radioactivity.

Removing the waste, which consists of a haphazard collection of contaminated items and radioactive sources dumped since the shaft was dug in 1955, would be financially more expensive, but far safer in the long term.

Seeds of childhood leukaemia may be sown before birth

The origins of childhood leukaemia may lie in the womb. *Jeremy Laurance,* Health Editor, examines research suggesting that substances, such as alcohol, to which the foetus is exposed may be a cause of the commonest childhood cancer.

Examination of blood samples taken from children suffering from leukaemia which were compared with blood taken at birth have revealed that the same cancer cells were present when the children were born.

The discovery, by scientists from the Institute of Cancer Research in London, confirms what has long been suspected: that childhood leukaemia starts in the womb.

Professor Mel Greaves and his colleagues, whose findings are published in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, say they apply to only one type of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, associated with an abnormal gene, which accounts for one in 20 cases of childhood cancer. However, they say the technique they have developed can be used to trace the origin of other childhood leukaemias.

Professor Greaves said: "It made sense to start with a leukaemia with a convenient molecular marker. It confirms what we suspected. The hints are there that in general there may be a foetal start [for all childhood leukaemias]."

Most cases of childhood leukaemia develop between the ages of two and six, but infant leukaemia begins between six months and one year of age. In these cases it appears that what happens in the womb is enough to cause the disease.

In older children the researchers believe there is an exposure in the womb which makes the child vulnerable but which is not sufficient on its own to start the disease. Later, a "second hit" such as an infection triggers the disease. "It is like a bomb waiting to go off," Professor Greaves said.

A large US epidemiological study has linked drinking in pregnancy with infant leukaemia. But other substances also have a similar effect, including benzene, a constituent of petrol, antibiotics and other medicines.

"There is a list of potential villains," Professor Greaves said. "A lot of women are exposed to them and the disease is rare. That is the way cancer is – it strikes at random. I don't want to worry women who have had a couple of drinks in pregnancy."

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Boxing Day 26 December
"No, really, I do like it honest..."

New Year's Day 1 January
"So you're sure I don't need a receipt?"

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Getty takes high art to Hollywood

The new Getty Centre in Los Angeles opens this week. It is a vast and expensive monument to culture in a city better known for flashy impermanence. *Tim Cornwell* **says some people prefer tinseltown to Goya.**

The Getty museum that most visitors to Los Angeles know is a reproduction Roman villa perched above the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. It is closed for a major overhaul. Instead, all eyes are on the new Getty Centre, which opens its doors to the public this week. Occupying a high hill, bearing over the 405 freeway in West Los Angeles, its off-white ramparts have been compared by those below to a city state or crusader castle guarding a pass through the Santa Monica mountains.

The architectural merits of the new Getty will be put through the wringer by the international press this week, when a squad of 600 reporters is guided through a three-day preview. The interlocking museum, research, library and administration buildings cover the 110-acre hilltop in a gargantuan arts complex. It was designed and built over 14 years by the New York architect Richard Meier, at a cost of about $1bn (£625m).

It is a fitting home for the Getty Trust, established with a sizable chunk of the Getty fortune, and now worth $4.3bn. Meier, often inspired by the Swiss architect Le Corbusier, is winning gushing praise for the glass rotunda, and the use of natural light in the galleries through computerised louvres that regulate the California sunshine. The building is faced by 250,000 blocks of travertine marble, mounted over concrete.

The collection, focused on 19th-century European art, includes crowd-pleasers like Van Gogh's *Irises*, bought for a reported $35m, Cézannes and Goyas, and *Christ's Entry into Brussels in 1889*, by Ensor.

The Getty, it is said, marks the coming of a late modern monumentalism in a city better known as a place of youth and constant change, where things are torn down as quickly as they are built up. For Los Angeles, a city haunted by its own provincialism and superficiality, it lays a claim to international stature. For those who love the place for the reasons others hate it – that it is faddy, flimsy, and a cultural grab bag – this passing seems a little sad.

It is safe to say that feelings about the Getty, so far, are decidedly mixed – swinging between "Getty bashing, and Getty deification", observed one local architect. Some Angelenos wonder what such a lofty enterprise, devoted mostly to the art of dead white European males, means to a polyglot city which is increasingly Asian and Hispanic. The Getty has responded with a city-wide advertising for "Your Getty" – "imagine, discover, explore, enjoy". The museum has revived a perennial debate about the place of high culture in the home of *Baywatch*.

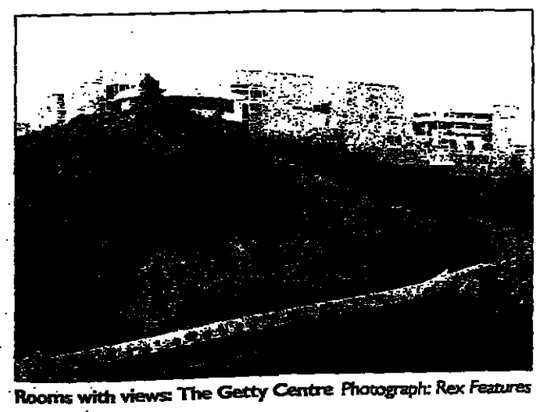
"The cliché of Los Angeles is a city of decay, a city where, as Raymond Chandler put it, the front door is the only part of a house you can't kick through with a boot," wrote Nicholas Ouroussoff, architectural critic of the *Los Angeles Times*.

"The Getty is a finely honed alternative. It seeks to civilise the city's sprawl, to hoist a banner to the Old World values of high art. In doing so, it marks a shift toward making Los Angeles a more traditional city."

Carolyn See, whose books are set in and about Los Angeles, suggests the Getty will give "a little dignity" to a young city, born in the 1880s on the back of a one-dollar rail fare from the east. Other monuments are soon to follow. The long-delayed Disney Hall, with a dauntingly lavish design by Frank Gehry, creator of the Guggenheim Bilbao, has finally got the funding it needs. The Los Angeles Catholic church has commissioned a new cathedral from the Spanish architect Jose Rafael Moneo.

Meier's design suffered from the demands of local residents, who insisted on height restrictions, and made him exchange his trade mark white construction for a light tan. But it is his mixing of disjoined architectural themes that has brought some of the toughest criticism, particularly from New York, which has historically looked down on California's artistic pretensions.

The Getty has been compared to a corporate headquarters, a medical centre, and a "stack of Deco refrigerator doors", suggesting for many that it "simply does not work" as a whole. "It is hard for people in the North-east, particularly in New York, to accept that LA can do anything that's sophisticated in culture and the arts," said Barry Munitz, the California State University chancellor who will take over as president of the Getty Trust in January. "It's tinseltown, the movie business, a bunch of Philistines whose brains have been fried by the sun."



Rooms with views: The Getty Centre Photograph: Rex Features

Smile! David Piggott filming in Chingford, Essex, and (right, from top) Chingford Day 1958, Larkswood Pool in 1960 and the storm damage of 1987 Main photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Captured on film: the changing times of an English town

An Essex man has filmed the passing of history on the streets of his home town. *Paul McCann,* **Media Correspondent, watches the minutiae of 40 years' living slip past.**

The English eccentric is alive and well and living in Chingford. Better known for Lord Tebbit and *Birds of a Feather*, the Essex commuter town is home to one David Piggott, a man who has amassed a unique archive of 40 years of self-made newsreels of his home town.

No world event has been too small that Mr Piggott has not captured its effect on Chingford for posterity. They include the great storm of 1987, the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the time in 1958 when a starlet called Sabrina came to open Tyre Specialists Ltd.

Mr Piggott, a self-confessed news addict, started making super-8 films of his town when he failed to get into the BBC: "They offered me a job in the accounts department, but I didn't want to spend my life in accounts."

So since then, in his spare time, he has dutifully stalked the streets of Chingford looking for news. He edits his films, collects jaunty soundtrack music, creates titles and narrates a commentary. The result is an archive of films that captures the changing face of Britain over 40 years. Every 12 months he shows his year in the life of the town at a local hall.

He has catalogued changing styles, the increase in traffic and, most obviously, the decline of any sense of community in the average British town.

Where once his newsreels were full of "Chingford Day" parades and local events complete with mayors and bunting, lack of interest has put an end to the annual pageants. Locally owned haberdashers and merchants disappear in front of Mr Piggott's lens to reappear as national chain stores and anonymous burger joints.

"The Silver Jubilee was a time of a wonderful spirit," says Mr Piggott. "I don't think we'll see an event like that again."

The future of the newsreels themselves is now threatened because Kodak has stopped making the kind of film Mr Piggott needs to make his films, and the company has only a few months' supply left.

Not all of the events covered by the newsreels make the most scintillating news stories, but the slower-paced and gentle nature of the past comes through the years to us. Sometime during the Seventies a man finds an old coin in his garden and Mr Piggott is there with his camera to film him pointing soberly at the small hole in the garden where the coin was found. Mr Piggott has found the time to film the changing telephone boxes of Chingford and to record the day the council ordered the end of dustbins and imposed black bin liners. There is a kind of Zen dullness operating in the films that is quietly relaxing, so BBC2 tracked down Mr Piggott and put him in *Picture This*, its series about people who are gently out of the ordinary. After 40 years he has at last managed to get in to the BBC.

● *'Picture This' is on BBC 2 on Tuesday at 9.50pm.*

EU presidency fuels push for jobs

The Government is to take advantage of its presidency of the European Union to push job creation in the cultural industries where Britain is strong. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, announced yesterday.

Britain will stage three major conferences and more than 100 events in the next six months as its cultural contribution to its EU presidency.

The Government wants to encourage the television, music, radio and Internet industries across Europe to create jobs, Mr Smith said.

"We are seeing a flourishing of talent and creativity in this country, particularly in the audio-visual industry. The jobs of the future are going to come increasingly from the cultural sector in its widest sense. We intend to explore with our European partners how this can be achieved and encouraged."

Mr Smith's statement was reinforced yesterday by the first repayment of part of a lottery grant to a British film. *Shooting Fish*, the hit British comedy starring Kate Beckinsale, has already taken £4m at the British box office. But it is successful distribution sales around the world that have allowed producers Winchester Films to begin paying back the £980,000 lottery grant, according to Gary Smith, who heads the studio.

The comedy was among the first batch of productions to receive a lottery boost from the Arts Council, which requires partnership funding of at least 25 per cent and a return on any profits.

The first conference under Mr Smith's plans will be a meeting in March of Europe's culture ministers at Shrigley Hall, near Macclesfield, to discuss the reviews of audio-visual policies.

Media company leaders and professionals will meet in Birmingham in April to discuss the challenges of the digital age, and arts professionals will meet at the South Bank in London in May to discuss culture, creativity and employment. The 100 events around the country include an exhibition of Holbein in London, one dedicated to the Nazi victim Anne Frank in York, and a lecture on the Spanish Armada in Plymouth.

Mr Smith conceded that many had been arranged before the UK presidency, and linked in, but he said: "If we had been going to create an all-singing, all-dancing festival, we would have had to launch long before the May 1 this year, and before [the general election on] May 1 we were not in a position to do so."

— *Paul McCann*
Media Correspondent

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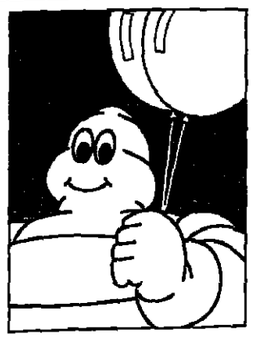

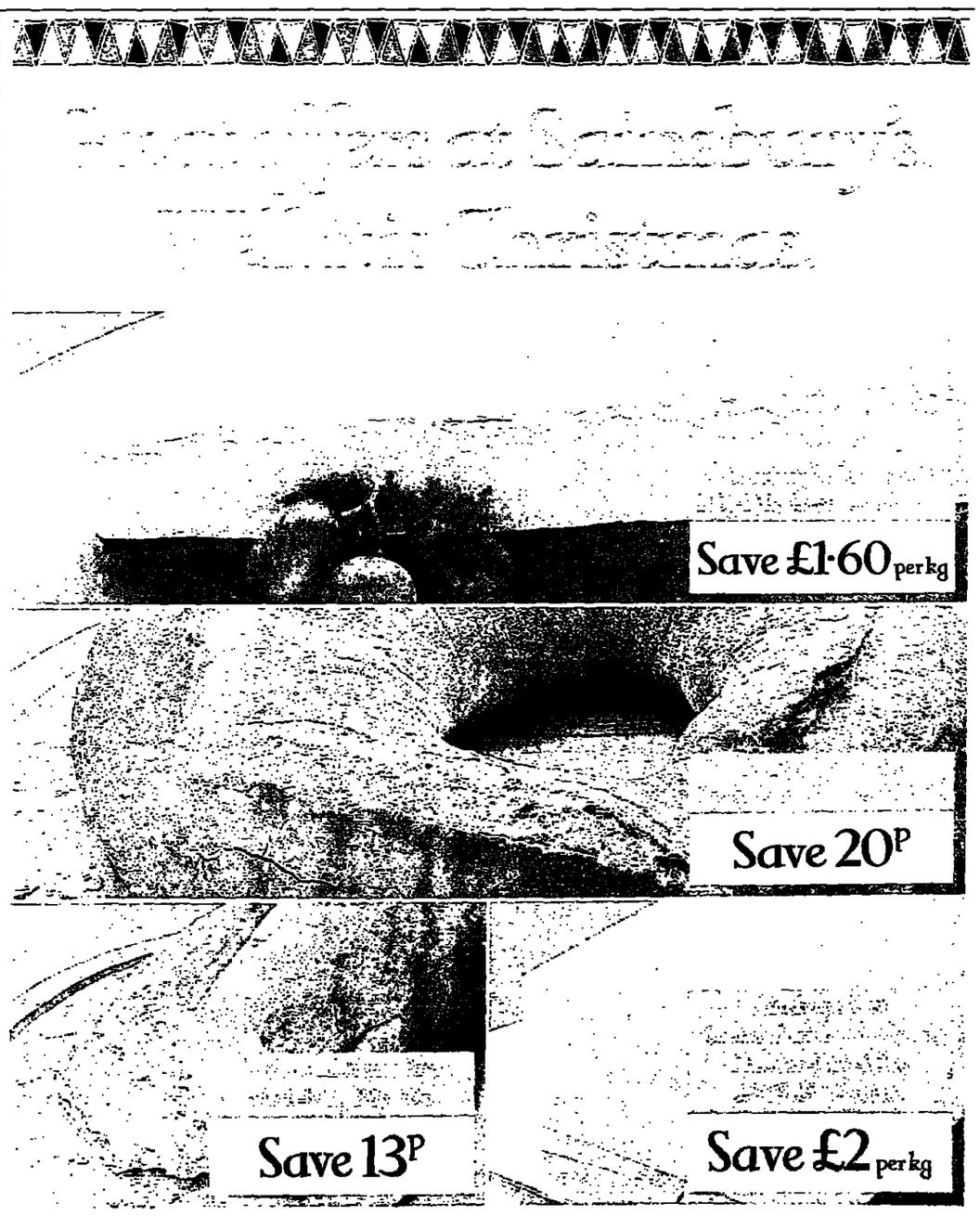

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Police raid Kurdish exiles in terrorism crackdown

In the lead-up to a visit to London by the Turkish Prime Minister today, police have raided two Kurdish community centres in north London. Kurds in Britain see this as part of a creeping campaign against them.

The raids took place at Kurdish centres in Haringey and Stoke Newington, under the terms of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The search warrant for last month's raids talked of "evidence of contributions towards acts of terrorism money, accounting records, computer records and other documentation".

Legislation still in the pipeline will make it possible to bring prosecutions against those who fundraise in Britain for what are regarded as terrorist activities elsewhere. The authorities already seem eager, however, to toughen up. A police spokesman said yesterday that the raids were in connection with an "ongoing investigation into alleged money-laundering", but added: "As in all laws, there is a certain amount of latitude." Under existing legislation, searches can be carried out under the terms of the Prevention of Terrorism Act for material of substantial value for the investigation of a terrorist offence.

Many Kurds in Britain are sympathetic to the aims of the Kurdish Workers' Party, the PKK, which is involved in a long-running guerrilla struggle against the Turkish armed forces for Kurdish independence. It is legal in Britain, but the PKK is banned in several European countries, including Germany – which is especially keen to have good relations with Turkey.

Mizgin Sen, co-ordinator of the Kurdish Information Centre, expressed the fear that tougher action against Kurdish groups is "part of a criminalisation campaign against the PKK ... this is definitely a sign in that direction."

The US State Department also placed the PKK on a recently published blacklist of "foreign terrorist organisations". Under the American rules, it is a criminal offence to supply funds to the designated organisations. Members of the listed organisations can be denied entry or expelled from the United States. Bank accounts can be blocked.

Last month's swoop on the offices of the Kurdish Workers' Association came ahead of today's visit to London by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mesut Yilmaz, who is due to meet Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street. Turkey's bid for membership of the European Union will be on the agenda. Harsh Turkish policies towards Kurds have been raised by critics of the Turkish government as an important reason for refusing the Turkish application.

The peace campaigner, Bianca Jagger, delivered a letter to 10 Downing Street yesterday, which called for a "peaceful settlement to the Kurdish conflict" and an end to human rights abuses.

— *Steve Crawshaw*

Female guerrillas of the PKK training in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Many Kurds in Britain are sympathetic to the organisation's aims. It is legal in Britain but banned in several European countries Photograph: Magnum

Are homeless people worth just 2 minutes of your time?

THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS families in the UK has almost doubled in the last fifteen years. Shelter thinks much more decisive action is needed.

Providing decent housing for homeless people makes economic sense in the long term. The savings on health care costs alone would make it financially worthwhile. And what price do you put on ruined lives? The children, for instance, who may never know a real home...

It's not about politics, it's about getting homeless people decent homes, and off the streets. But to tackle Britain's housing crisis effectively we have to keep in touch with public opinion.

Please spend just two minutes of your time completing this survey, and return it as soon as you can.

If you can also make a donation of £15 (or whatever you can afford) we would be very grateful. Please let us have your answers within 14 days.

Thank you.

1997 Shelter National Opinion Survey on Homelessness

Please help us make this the widest ever survey of attitudes to homelessness. Your contribution will be much appreciated, and your answers treated in the strictest confidence. Please complete and return within 14 days.

PLEASE RETURN WITHIN 14 DAYS

Q1. Are you aged:

18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75+ ☐

Q2. Do you:

Own your own home or have a mortgage? ☐
Rent privately? ☐
Rent from a Housing Association or local authority? ☐
Live in someone else's home? ☐
Other ☐

Q3. Do you share your home with:

Children? Yes ☐ No ☐
Partner/husband/wife or anyone else related to you? Yes ☐ No ☐
Someone not related to you? Yes ☐ No ☐

Q4. Have you ever been homeless or at serious risk of losing your home yourself (through a tenancy ending, not being able to afford the rent or mortgage, break up of relationship, or other reason)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q5. Do you know anyone else who is either homeless or at serious risk of losing their home in such a way?

At risk of homelessness Yes ☐ No ☐
Actually homeless Yes ☐ No ☐

Q6. Bad housing can have serious long-term consequences. Please show how important you view these problems (tick one box only for each problem; 1 being the most important):

	1	2	3
Children doing badly at school	☐	☐	☐
People suffering asthma, bronchitis and other serious diseases	☐	☐	☐
People becoming more dependent on social services	☐	☐	☐

Q7. Do you think politicians are at present sufficiently concerned about the plight of homeless people?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

Q8. Would you be willing to write a letter to an MP which might help to get homeless people housed?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

Q9. Would you be willing to make a donation to Shelter to help homeless people?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Name: (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
Address: _____
_____
_____ Postcode: _____
Telephone No: _____

Thank you for your time. If you would like to make a donation, please complete the section below. We suggest £15, but any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated.

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Please enclose your cheque/Postal Order (payable to SHELTER) with this survey OR complete the credit card authorisation below and send it to: **Shelter, FREEPOST, Room 60, 88 Old Street, London EC1B 1ND.**

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Siberia crash pilots praised for averting worse disaster

The Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, visiting the ruins where 65 people were killed by a jet on Saturday, absolved the pilots and praised the dead crew for doing all they could to prevent a greater disaster. He cited "technical reasons" for the shutdown of two of the plane's engines seconds after it took off from the Siberian city of Irkutsk. The An-124 military transport hit a five-storey apartment. The aircraft was carrying 23 people; most of the other dead were believed to be residents of the apartment block and two children who died in a fire at an orphanage that the plane clipped during its descent. — *AP, Irkutsk*

Solidarity relaunched

The Solidarity bloc leading Poland's coalition government relaunched itself. The AWS Social Movement will be the political incarnation of the Solidarity trade union that toppled Communism in 1989, its leader, Marian Krzaklewski, said. It aims to be a strong Christian democratic party uniting many of the 40 small parties that formed the Solidarity Election Action alliance to fight parliamentary elections in September. It defeated the ex-Communists and now controls 201 of the 460 seats in the lower house of parliament. — *Reuters, Warsaw*

Chechen bomb suspects held

Security forces detained a Chechen woman for hiding explosives in her Moscow flat and were holding two other Chechen women for smuggling weapons into the city, officials said. The explosives seized were similar to those used in attacks in the cities of Nalchik and Voronezh last year, a spokesman said. — *AP, Moscow*

Second World War revisited

Police evacuated all 9,000 residents of the French town of Dugny while experts defused a 500kg World War Two British bomb. Dugny, north of Paris, was heavily bombed in 1943-44 by Allied forces targeting the Nazi-occupied Le Bourget airport. In Oranienburg, a town of 29,000 about 15km from Berlin, police evacuated 10,000 people while experts successfully defused another Second World War bomb. — *Reuters, Paris*

King Size Dick fired up

A popular Cologne singer, King Size Dick, escaped unhurt from his flat when fire broke out during a dinner party. He was hosting a party for guests including the Mayor, Renate Canisius, and media figures. King Size Dick was born Heinz Ganss in 1942. As a young singer in Britain in the 1960s he was given the nickname "King Size" by friends for his size - six feet tall and 250lb. He returned to Cologne and local fans added "Dick", which means "fat", to his stage name. — *Reuters, Cologne*

German officer in neo-Nazi scandal

Lieutenant-General Hartmut Olboeter, head of the personnel department of the defence ministry, yesterday became the highest-ranking casualty in the undeclared war being waged inside the German armed forces. Gen Olboeter, a 57-year-old Berliner who lists "history and sport" as his hobbies, was suspended pending an investigation into the second neo-Nazi scandal to hit the Bundeswehr within a week.

The general was the head of the army's top academy in 1995, the year when a certain Manfred Roeder was invited to lecture to his staff. Roeder, who had spent eight years in jail for torching a refugee hostel and causing the death of two Vietnamese immigrants, was a known neo-Nazi.

Volker Rühe, the defence minister, revealed yesterday that up to 30 officers had listened to the lecture, without recognising their illustrious guest's name.

Nor did the subject of his lecture – "German resettlement of the Kaliningrad region" – set any alarm bells ringing. Kaliningrad is the Russian name of the former East Prussian city of Königsberg, flattened during the Second World War, its Teutonic population driven out and the rubble repopulated with Russians.

The 68-year-old neo-Nazi leader presented himself as representative of a charity named "German-Russian Community Workshop – Association for the Support of North-East Prussia". The goal of this charity is to help ethnic Germans fleeing from hardship in the former Soviet Union to resettle – not in Germany – but in East Prussia.

It was on this subject that Roeder spoke to the academy's staff, and it was for this "humanitarian" cause that his organisation received help: the gift of a van and two smaller vehicles. Before imparting its donation, the defence ministry had checked with another government department. The foreign ministry's verdict was that the "charity's" activities were "in the interest of Germany".

The Roeder affair is the fourth neo-Nazi scandal to pop up in the German media this year without warning. Videos, pictures and lectures of two years ago are being leaked to the press from dubious sources. The result is turmoil, and more revelations are certain to come.

— *Imre Karacs, Bonn*

هكذا من الاصل

Keeping the peace becomes a job for life

If the Dayton peace accord had gone according to schedule, the international community would now be looking at a gentle withdrawal from Bosnia. But the talk at today's Peace Implementation Council meeting in Bonn is likely to be of greater, not lesser, international involvement. *Andrew Gumbel* **reports on the drift towards keeping Bosnia as a kind of international protectorate.**

Once upon a time, it was fashionable to think that elections would solve the problems in Bosnia that four years of brutal but inconclusive conflict had only exacerbated. The international community set up a formidable machine to service the country's complex post-war constitution, with its multiple presidencies, parliaments and local councils that both link and divide the two entities (Serbs on one side, Moslems and Croats on the other).

As a result, Bosnia has elections coming out of its ears. September's municipal polls were so hard to administer that the results were not made known for more than a month. Two weeks ago, the Bosnian Serbs voted for a new parliament. Next year, fresh elections are slated to renew nearly all of the country's fragile institutions.

Rather than leading the country towards greater autonomy, however, the elections seem only to be increasing Bosnia's dependence on the outside world. Not only have Nato and the reluctant US Defense Department acknowledged the need to maintain a considerable peacekeeping force beyond the nominal pull-out date next summer, but the civilian authorities – notably the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe which has both monitored and run all the elections so far – also see no chance to hand over their powers to local authorities any time soon.

At today's Bonn meeting the civilian High Representative's office will be lobbying for binding powers of arbitration to resolve disputes between the federal presidents of the three national groupings. Despite some resistance to such ideas, notably from Russia, the word "protectorate" is being bandied about by international negotiators with increasing frequency.

"What we're looking at is a Cyprus situation, in which there is little or no prospect of the core issues being resolved if the international community stays, but every prospect of renewed conflict if it goes," remarked one senior OSCE official.

The nub of the problem is the continuing sway of nationalist political parties. Trust between the three communities is so low, and fear of renewed conflict so great, that voters feel they have to protect their own grouping's immediate interests first. But that means only growing entrenchment in the positions of the former warring factions, and a near-total breakdown in their common institutions.

September's municipal polls were intended to help address this problem by encouraging refugees to vote in their old homes and thus force two or more hostile groupings to work together. But the Muslim councillors who won a majority in Srebrenica are too scared to set foot in the town, much less co-operate with the Serb leadership that massacred their people by the thousand. There are similar stories of Croat intransigence towards the Serbs in Drvar, or towards the Muslims in Zepce.

In Brcko, the contested city that forms a pivot between the two halves of Serb-held Bosnia, a mixed Serb-Muslim council has been successfully established, but its every move is forever being denounced as unconstitutional or unfair by one side or the other.

Most intransigent of all is the hardline Serb leadership based in Pale in the mountains outside Sarajevo. The power structure established by their wartime president, Radovan Karadzic, is still intact and very much under his personal influence, even though he has been indicted for war crimes in The Hague and forced to go to ground.

The international community's biggest hope over the past few months has been the emergence of a rival, more outward-looking Serb leadership under Mr Karadzic's successor Biljana Plavsic, based in the north-western city of Banja Luka. But the recent Bosnian Serb elections, whose results were announced on Sunday, failed to turn the tide convincingly away from Mr Karadzic's party, and now look like creating a stalemate in which no stable majority can be formed.

Failing a dismantling of the Karadzic machine (his imminent arrest has been rumoured for months, but is yet to materialise), Serb Bosnia looks likely to split into two, with the western half becoming more open-minded and co-operative and the eastern half sinking deeper into paranoid nationalism.

According to their own logic, the Pale authorities have every interest in scuppering the peace process, which explains why there has been little or no advance on such pan-Bosnian issues as an integrated phone system, common passports and car licence plates, and a common currency.

The international community does have some powerful tools at its disposal, notably aid money which is now flowing more strongly towards Mrs Plavsic's half of Serb Bosnia and markedly less so towards Pale. According to a prominent risk analysis company in London, private investors have not given up hoping that a reasonable venture capital environment might emerge after another election or two.

But progress can never be substantial as long as the political scene remains so intransigent. While the Bosnian Serbs may be inching towards greater pluralism, there are signs of radicalisation among the Muslims, with an increasingly powerful faction in their own nationalist party talking about setting up an independent, ethnically pure Bosniak state. Relations between the Muslims and Croats in such divided cities as Mostar remain as tense as ever.

Elections have not removed the war-mongers; at best they have curbed their power at the price of political paralysis. No wonder the international community is tempted to take a more proactive role itself – even if this means sinking ever deeper into the Bosnian miasma.

Cold comfort: Nato's peacekeepers face another bitter winter in Bosnia Photograph: Chris Helgren/Reuters

Idea born out of Europe's imperial heyday

In the end it boils down to semantics. Bosnia may be sliding towards the status of *de facto* protectorate of the United Nations. But what exactly does that mean? In a chequered career, the word "protectorate" has variously been synonymous with dominion, "mandated" territory, "trustee" territory, old fashioned colony and a dictator's brutal land-grab.

Essentially, they were creatures of the European imperial heyday. For 44 years until 1956, Morocco was a prime specimen, split between a Spanish protectorate in the north and a French one in the south of the country. Former South Yemen used to be part of a British protectorate of South Arabia. Somalia, until 1960, was divided between a British protectorate in the north, and an Italian-run trusteeship in the south.

Which leads into the next stage of the protectorate game. When Germany was defeated in 1918, most of its ex-colonies came under the umbrella of the inter-war League of Nations, with various countries mandated to run them. Thus South Africa's increasingly contested stewardship of Namibia, New Zealand's Western Samoa, and former German Togoland, divided in 1918 between Britain and France as mandated powers. Britain was the mandated power for Iraq.

With the remaining reputation of the protectorate destroyed by the Nazi dismemberment of Czechoslovakia and the German "protectorate" over Bohemia and Moravia, the names changed. But the game didn't. The League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations. Mandates became trusteeships.

Today the empires have vanished and so have the official protectorates, mandated territories and the rest — now independent states in their own right. The last UN trusteeship, over the Pacific archipelago of Palau, ended in 1995. The sole remnants are 13 tiny British overseas dependencies, a few French islands scattered across the oceans, and US "external territories" like Guam, American Samoa and Puerto Rico.

Even so, undeclared protectorates lived on. Post-war Hungary and Czechoslovakia were nominally independent countries. But as events in 1956 and 1968 displayed, in practice they were at the mercy of Moscow, as the Red Army rolled in to "protect" them from themselves. Or more benignly, take the continuing supervision of France and Italy over the statelets of Monaco and San Marino.

A few years ago, the Somalia of famine, floods and warlords seemed to suggest that the UN protectorate could be a solution for "collapsed" post-colonial states. Unfortunately, Somalia also showed that "nation-building" is a dangerous and thankless business, only for those with the stomach for the long haul. Whether the US and its allies have one for Bosnia is more than doubtful.

— *Rupert Cornwell*

SERBIA PREPARES FOR SECOND ROUND IN ELECTIONS

Milan Milutinovic, the Serbian Foreign Minister, and Radical Party (SRS) leader Vojislav Seselj will fight a second round in elections later this month for Serbia's presidency, their parties said yesterday.

Mr Milutinovic, the candidate of the Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's ruling Socialist Party, won the largest share in the first round on Sunday but failed to gain an overall majority. Ivica Dacic, the Socialist spokesman, said: "There will be a second round in two weeks with Milutinovic and Seselj running."

SRS estimates that Mr Milutinovic won around 43 per cent of the vote compared with Mr Seselj's 32.5 per cent, and that the turnout among the 7.2 million electorate was only 51 per cent. The voter turnout must exceed 50 per cent of the electorate for a valid result.

A Seselj victory would antagonise the United States and the European Union. The Radical Party (SRS) leader would be even less co-operative than Mr Milosevic in complying with the Bosnian peace process, including the surrender of indicted war criminals.

— *Reuters, Belgrade*

THE INDEPENDENT

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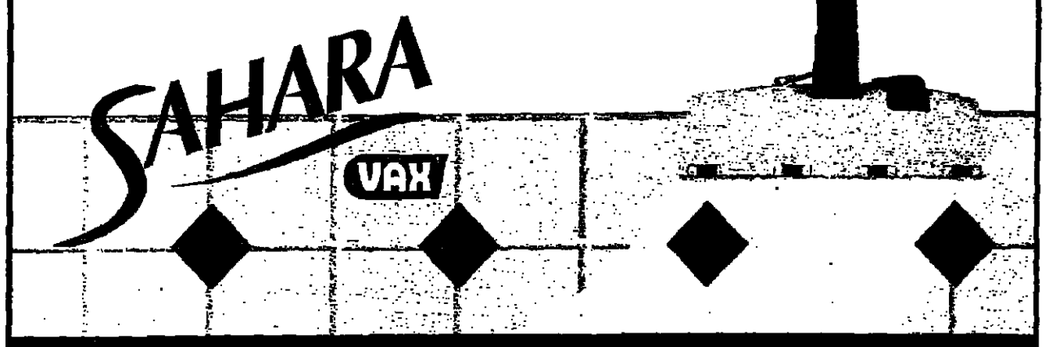

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Winnie Mandela ruled out of race for top ANC post

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela appears to be out of the race to become deputy president of the African National Congress after an announcement by party leaders that she has lost the support of the ANC Women's League.

Four days after the end of special public hearings into her alleged involvement in at least six murders in the late 1980s, ANC sources claimed yesterday that the Women's League had withdrawn its nomination of Mrs Mandela for the deputy presidency.

An ANC spokesman also made the surprising claim that the League was not entitled to nominate anyone for the post anyway. Despite weeks of debate about Mrs Mandela's election bid, this was the first mention that the League, of which she is president, has no constitutional right to nominate a candidate. As the ANC leadership's claims ran on national radio yesterday the Women's League issued a statement insisting that it had not dropped Mrs Mandela from its nominations list for the party elections to be held next week.

Its general secretary, Bathabile Dlamini, said that "pertinent issues" were discussed at a League meeting at the weekend but a statement would not be released until the conference.

Despite the confusion it seems that the Women's League – severely split over Mrs Mandela's candidature – has finally bowed to party pressure and dropped her, but is angered at yesterday's premature announcement. It is believed that the League wanted time to work out a face-saving formula to allow it – and its president – to climb down. Although deselection almost certainly spells the end for Mrs Mandela's leadership ambitions – this time round – there is still an outside chance of her reaching the ballot paper next week.

It is still possible that a supporter could nominate her from the floor of the party conference. Her name would then go on to the ballot paper if the nomination had the support of 25 per cent of the 3,000 delegates.

Most provinces – including Mrs Mandela's powerbase, the Eastern Cape – have now announced that they are supporting the leadership's choice, Jacob Zuma, for deputy president. However, despite heavy pressure from the leadership, Mrs Mandela has still run a close second to Mr Zuma in some provinces, and on the day the ballot will be one-member one-vote and votes are cast in secret.

The weekend newspapers came out strongly against Mrs Mandela after her nine-day hearing before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Her attacks on her accusers and her blanket denial of involvements in murders and assaults allegedly committed by her notorious Mandela United Football Club were lampooned in cartoons and columns.

Yesterday the respected *Business Day* newspaper called for the party to finally take on Mrs Mandela head-on. Its leader writers said she showed utter contempt for the notion of accountability, and that she played on the dissatisfactions of the poor without presenting any alternative policies.

— Mary Braid, Johannesburg

US urges caution on Nazi cash hunt

US officials leading the effort to recover Holocaust-era assets yesterday urged city and state officials from around the country to refrain from imposing sanctions on Switzerland.

In a speech read to a conference of finance officials in New York, Stuart Eizenstat, Under-Secretary of State, suggested punitive measures against Swiss banks were "not only unwarranted but also would be counter-productive".

The conference is expected to approve the formation of a committee to monitor Swiss banks that may have moved some of the missing funds from Europe to their US branches in the 1930s and 1940s.

The banks most closely involved were the Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union Bank of Switzerland. At the weekend the SBC was censured by the New York Governor, George Pataki, for allegedly holding back information requested by the state. In October Californian officials said it was suspending all business with Swiss banks pending a satisfactory conclusion to the investigation into Holocaust assets.

Mr Eizenstat told yesterday's conference: "I see little wisdom in increasing pressure just when progress is finally being made and just when the desired results are finally within reach."

— David Usborne, New York

Air safety call

A formal public hearing into the crash of TWA flight 800 opened yesterday in Baltimore with a call for new safety standards to ensure that flammable vapours are cleared from aircraft fuel tanks.

The call came from Jim Hall, chairman of the US transport safety watchdog, the National Transportation Safety Board, who argued that clearing potentially dangerous vapours was even more important than determining precisely what sparked the explosion that is believed to have caused the disaster.

The Paris-bound plane, a Boeing 747, exploded 12 minutes after take-off from Kennedy Airport, New York, in the evening of 17 July 1996. All 230 people on board died. Although most of the wreckage has been recovered, the exact cause of the crash has still not been established, although sabotage has been ruled out.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

The number of people forced out of their homes by hardship or fear – like the Zairean refugees pictured here – is rising, but their chances of finding safe refuge are dwindling, said a UN report out yesterday. Europe, in particular, was closing the door to refugees Photograph: Reuters

Iraq tries to mend fences

The most senior Iraqi to visit Tehran since the 1979 revolution arrived yesterday to plead Baghdad's case against UN sanctions at an Islamic summit.

Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan said he was bearing a message from President Saddam Hussein to Muslim leaders, due to start a summit today. He drove from Baghdad to the Iranian border at Khorramshah, where he boarded an Iranian airliner for the flight to Tehran, which Iraq bombarded during its 1980-88 war with Iran. The sight of the Iraqi official stepping from an Iranian plane at Tehran's Mehrabad airport enraged some Iranians, who flooded state television with queries. Mr Ramadan was forced to take his unconventional route to the summit by UN sanctions, which prohibit flights to or from Iraq.

— Reuters, Tehran

Robert Fisk, page 17

Hard luck café

Tel Aviv's Hard Rock Café – sandwiched between the sites of two suicide bombings which killed a total of 35 people – has closed, a casualty of slumping tourism.

"The Hard Rock Café's problem is that not many tourists are coming now to Israel ... and it's very hard to survive without [them]," Raanan Saad, who represents a group of foreign investors in the Israeli franchise, said.

— Reuters, Jerusalem

HK assembly hand picked

Elections Chinese-style made their debut in Hong Kong yesterday, when a hand-picked committee selected 36 people to represent the ex-colony in China's parliament.

Members of Hong Kong's most popular party, the Democratic Party, failed to jump the first hurdle of getting 10 nominations from the 424 electors.

Allen Lee, leader of the Liberal Party, is likely to be the only critical voice. "If I have something to say, I will say it," he pledged. Mr Lee got far fewer votes than Jiang Enzhu, the head of the New China News Agency. Mr Jiang only arrived in Hong Kong three months ago, and is not eligible to stand in elections because seven years residence is required.

However, this did not seem to bother the electors, largely composed of long-time supporters of Peking.

— Stephen Vines, Hong Kong

Wet-nurse clue to riddle of King Tut

French archaeologists who found the tomb of Tutankhamun's wet-nurse said it shed light on the mysterious boy king who ruled 3,000 years ago. Alain Zivie, director of the mission, said his team was clearing the first level of the tomb of the nurse, named Maya. "We may find another level, maybe more. It's already wonderful, because 'King Tut' ... has always been a myth and because of the discovery exactly 75 years ago by Howard Carter of his tomb," said Mr Zivie at Saqqara, 20 miles from Cairo.

— Reuters, Saqqara

Talking to Turkey

Yitzhak Mordechai, Israel's Defence Minister, held talks on broadening military ties with Turkey. He said that no third party should fear the co-operation between the two countries. In Paris, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, pressed the Israelis and Palestinians to make key decisions on peace. From Israel she demanded a "credible" new West Bank troop pullback and freeze on Jewish settlements; from the Palestinians she demanded a firmer commitment to protect Israel from attack by Muslim extremists.

— Reuters

Old foes make up

Two of Cambodia's most bitter political rivals vowed to end their differences in the name of peace. "I'm very happy to have the chance to have a discussion with Hun Sen," the opposition leader Sam Rainsy said after meeting the Second Prime Minister, Hun Sen, the country's most powerful leader.

— AP, Takmau

Somali toll rises

Doctors in the Somali capital said 41 children had died of cholera and medicine was needed to prevent an epidemic. The outbreak has been blamed on heavy rains since October which caused severe flooding.

— Reuters, Mogadishu

Finns go full pelt

A Finnish fox farmer shot and wounded three anti-fur activists apparently trying to spray-paint his foxes to make their pelts worthless, the most serious incident in a feud between activists and Finland's fur industry, the world's largest supplier of fox furs.

— Reuters, Helsinki

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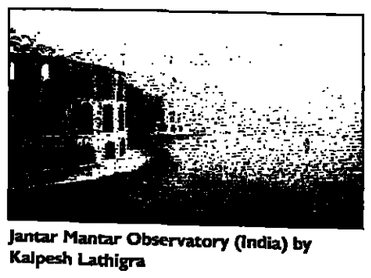

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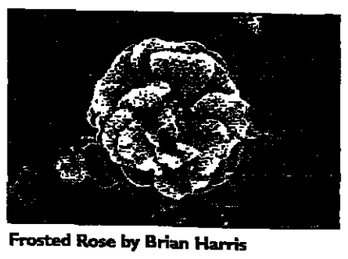

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'I still have no idea how I caught TB'

As tuberculosis returns to affluent societies, even those vaccinated in childhood may be at risk of contracting the illness, as Giles O'Bryen discovered. By *Sarah Jewel*.

Giles O'Bryen is now back home with his wife Emma and their daughters after his nightmarish bout of TB

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Giles O'Bryen, a publisher, 38, went on holiday last Easter in Devon with his family before his wife gave birth to their third child. He came back home to London feeling rather more tired than he had expected after a week's break, and woke up with a blinding headache which got steadily worse. He also suffered terrible aches in his legs and lower back. His doctor said he had a slight urine infection and prescribed a course of antibiotics.

But despite taking antibiotics and "guzzling painkillers", Giles felt progressively ill. He had a very high temperature and felt delirious to the point where he didn't know if he was awake or asleep. He started having terrible dreams and kept waking drenched in sweat, exhausted and frightened.

He had one very vivid recurring nightmare. "I was slogging up a hill in a clapped-out seaside town and a really unpleasant spotty lout with a slavering dog at his side kept tracking me. Every time I thought he had gone, suddenly he would be there again and he kept saying things to me like, 'you'd better not move', and I'd say, 'why not?', and he'd say, 'because my dog's got you', and I'd look down and there was his dog with my knee clamped in its mouth. Eventually I hid in a little seaside shack but he kept bursting through the wall panels with a knife in his hand." Afterwards, Giles felt that this man was a personification of his disease.

His wife, Emma, became so worried she called the doctor out on a home visit. He took one look at Giles and decided to admit him to hospital immediately, where he was prodded and poked by a team of doctors who couldn't find anything wrong. Eleven hours later, they were about to discharge him when one of the doctors decided to give him an X-ray, and it was then that Giles was told there was "something odd" showing up on the X-ray and that there was a cavity in one of his lungs. He was eventually diagnosed as having tuberculosis and immediately moved to the isolation ward.

Giles was appalled. "I felt shocked and anxious at the thought of having TB and watched with horror as the nurses inserted a drip into my hand and started sluicing me through with antibiotics." He has no idea how he caught it, or from whom. But it can easily be picked up just from someone else sneezing.

Once a disease affecting all levels of society, TB was exiled to the poorer regions of the world following the discovery of antibiotics. Today, after decades of being on the decrease, TB is back in more affluent societies. The number of notified cases in England and Wales between 1987 and 1993 rose by 17.2 per cent and a similar pattern was observed in other European countries and the US.

Although the proportion of people catching tuberculosis from middle-class backgrounds is still small, the disease, which is caused by the bacterium of the same name being passed from person to person by airborne droplets, is no respecter of class or creed. Dr John Moore-Gillon, TB specialist at St Bartholomew's hospital and the Royal London hospital, says: "A Eurobond dealer earning a quarter of a million pounds can catch TB, and I have had a patient like that. But it is still more likely to be caught by people who are sleeping rough on the streets and who are undernourished."

Symptoms may include coughing (sometimes bringing up blood), chest pain and shortness of breath (although Giles had none of these), as well as fever and vomiting. Thanks to antibiotics, healthy patients like Giles will make a good recovery; but dangerous complications can still occur, such as fluid or air collecting between the lung and chest wall.

TB remains the most common infective cause of death among adults worldwide: the World Health Organisation has estimated that in 1992 one third of the world's population was infected with the disease. In 1993 WHO declared TB a "global health emergency", and in March this year introduced a new strategy for managing the drugs that are used to control TB.

Although Giles was vaccinated against TB when he was a child, the BCG does not give life-long immunity and is only expected to last about 15 years. As Professor Denis Mitchison, research professor in tuberculosis, says: "A vaccine provides 80 per cent protection in childhood against TB but by the time the child becomes an adult the BCG has very much less value." He says no studies have been done to show if a booster later in life improves protection.

Four powerful and bacterial drugs have to be taken for six months to cure TB and they can have nasty side-effects, ranging from orange-coloured urine to liver damage to psychosis. More commonly, patients suffer from slight nausea and lethargy. Giles stayed in hospital for a week and then returned home feeling better but very weak and slightly jaundiced by the drugs.

He tended to feel faint in the mornings and it was hard work getting through the daily line-up of pills: "There was a lot of munching at breakfast time." He had to give up drinking as even one glass of wine made him feel woozy and he also developed gout. "I said rather shamefacedly at the clinic one day, 'I'm not sure if I should mention this to you but I've been getting these pains in my knees', and was told, 'oh that will be gout, yes they can give you gout these pills'."

One of the major problems with TB is that the antibiotics have to be taken for a long time to prevent the risk of a relapse. "The medical profession is terrified of TB coming back and the only way they have of dealing with it is with these massive doses of antibiotics," says Giles. Widespread failure to complete the drug course has led to the emergence of potentially incurable multidrug-resistant TB.

At the clinic Giles attended the walls were lined with notices warning of the dangers of not taking the drugs. "You've got to complete the course, otherwise it is bad news all round, not just for the patient but for the whole community," he says. But it is impossible to force patients to complete the drug treatment. As Dr Moore-Gillon says: "It is a difficult situation because of the issue of personal freedom. We cannot compulsorily treat someone. In the US coercion is used in some some states to force people to take their tablets."

Giles's main worry on leaving hospital, however, was for his family. His wife, Emma, was due to give birth any day and they were told that if the baby was born within the first two weeks of Giles starting his course of antibiotics (when he was still infectious), the baby would need a BCG injection at birth. "It was a nightmare trying to find out who would actually give the injection ... no one wanted to take responsibility for making the decision to vaccinate a newborn baby or to administer the vaccination."

Luckily Emma did not go into labour until a few days after the crucial two-week period but they decided when the baby was four days old that he should have the BCG anyway. Emma and their two daughters were tested for TB but much to everyone's relief they all tested negative.

Giles took four weeks off work to convalesce at home and slowly built up his strength pottering about and "doing a bit of DIY". The episode has left him feeling slightly debilitated. But he is now fitter, and enjoying the odd glass of wine.

Information on TB is available from the British Lung Foundation (0171-831 5831).

What's so special about psychotherapy?

It may be good to talk – but it makes no difference who's listening, a new study shows. *Jeremy Laurence* reports.

These are difficult times for psychotherapists. They may be feeling in need of a little post-traumatic stress disorder counselling. For research is accumulating showing that the talking cures they peddle are no better than traditional GP care.

The evidence is far from conclusive and there are good reasons why, instead of being downcast, therapists should take heart. But the findings are significant, they are a set back and they cannot be ignored. Too many counsellors and therapists are inclined to dismiss criticism as evidence of professional rivalry or deep-seated hostility rather than taking a clear-eyed look at the way forward.

The latest study, by psychiatrists at the Royal Free Hospital, London, suggests that the success of the talking cure lies in the talking – not in who you talk to.

They compared two groups of about 70 patients, most with depression, who were given either up to 12 sessions of psychotherapy or routine GP care. They all improved significantly over nine months but there were no differences between the groups. Psychotherapy, in other words, is no more effective than chatting with your GP.

At least a third of general practices offer counselling or therapy to help patients with emotional difficulties and thousands of therapists offer their services privately. The number of organisations offering training for counsellors has risen from 76 in 1990 to 545 in 1997, and the number of trained counsellors is estimated to run into tens of thousands. More than 100,000 people are estimated to be "in therapy" of one kind or another but the boom has happened in the absence of hard evidence that it works.

In a commentary on the findings of the latest study, published in *The Lancet* last week, Dr Andre Tylee, a GP and lecturer on mental health at the Institute of Psychiatry, says that the study provides "compelling evidence" that the psychotherapy offered by a counsellor is no better than the sympathetic ear offered by the GP.

This was the broad conclusion of a controversial report by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York in August which concluded that counselling of the sort offered to people undergoing divorce, bereavement or redundancy was useless when practised on its own.

That report was based on a review of existing research and was sent round the NHS by the centre, which is funded by the health department, to encourage best practice. It said the technique "has not been shown to produce sustained benefit in a variety of groups at risk". The finding was immediately challenged by the British Association of Counsellors who said it was "unduly negative".

An earlier review by the Australian psychiatrist, Professor Gavin Andrews, published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in 1993, reached similar conclusions. It said no trial had shown psychotherapy to be better than placebo in effecting recovery and the treatment was more expensive and carried greater risks than ordinary GP care. There is an important caveat to be added to this catalogue of gloom. Whatever the results of therapy, patients like it. It is hugely popular.

Professor Michael King and colleagues, who conducted the study at the Royal Free Hospital, noted that although patients treated by psychotherapists did no better than the rest, they were happier with their treatment. This suggests that were it provided privately, patients might still be prepared to pay for it, despite the lack of evidence of efficacy.

GPs like it, too – and for the same reasons. As one doctor put it: "I know there is no evidence that it works but my patients want it, there is nothing I can do for them, it is relatively cheap to provide and it's harmless."

There is a further caveat. If psychotherapy and counselling as presently practised work no better than traditional forms of care, it may be possible to refine them so that they do. The NHS Centre for Reviews report says: "More attention needs to be given to the content and effectiveness of specific forms of counselling and the skills of counsellors before this approach is extended too widely."

There is a parallel here with the development of drug treatments. Several decades ago, the dried and powdered leaves of the wild foxglove were found to be an effective treatment for heart trouble. But the effect was not consistent – some patients got better and others did not. Only when the active constituent, digoxin, was isolated and prescribed did doctors begin to get consistent results.

Similar efforts are being made to refine and develop aspects of psychotherapy to improve results. One promising avenue has been the development of cognitive therapy – the training technique that seeks to correct destructive ways of thinking – for which there is evidence of efficacy. But as the latest research shows, there is much still to be done.

DR PHIL HAMMOND

A sore throat? Then kindly remove your blouse and bra, please

I've been much troubled by Tubes lately. I'm not talking hollow cylinders or the wild American band that gave us "White punks on dope". No, my Tubes are far more unsettling. They're an acronym, courtesy of a group of medical students, for Totally Unnecessary Breast Examinations.

Now, a lot of medical examinations are of dubious necessity. We used to stick a finger up the backside of anyone who might have appendicitis, until someone pointed out that it was very uncomfortable and of no help in making the diagnosis. Nurses used to, and some probably still do, take half-hourly blood pressures from anyone who happens to be occupying a bed, again for no scientific reason.

These infringements are misguided rather than abusive, a reflection of protocols and procedures that had been taught many years ago and never updated. But the thought of a group of male students contriving to perform breast examinations in the knowledge that they are unnecessary, and to devise an acronym to celebrate their achievement, is in a different league.

To be fair, I'd never heard of the acronym before, and I'd never heard medical students use it, until Natasha from the *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* research team unearthed it in a doctors' mess.

However, the taboo of doctors finding patients sexually attractive, and gratifying their desires through the physical examination, is not much talked about at medical school. No one wants to tackle the subject full on. An 18-year-old student bursting with testosterone encounters an incredibly attractive patient. Can he switch off his sex drive, just like that?

One answer came from a brave medic writing in a student journal.

"A 19-year-old woman was admitted to hospital for cystoscopy to investigate the possible causes of a series of urinary tract infections. I immediately noticed that she was very attractive. I began clerking but got nowhere, as I found myself staring into a pair of inviting blue eyes. The patient appeared to have developed an affection for me. As I plugged away with totally inane questions, I realised how devious I could be. I ran through a list of differential diagnoses trying to find one that would require me to examine her ample breasts that were being shoved towards me ..."

To his credit, the student bolted before following through with the assault, but was clearly affected by it ("you probably think I'm a worthless lump of hormone") and sought solace in the library.

A Dutch study found that more than half their doctors thought sexual feelings towards patients were acceptable, and 4 per cent admitted to actual sexual contact. In Britain, as you'd expect, the admission figures are lower. The GMC forbids it, and we just don't talk about it.

A breast surgeon did, however, describe his three switches to me. "One is as a man, who finds women sexually attractive; one is as a surgeon, who wants to remove a cancer for good, and one is as an artist who respects the female form and wants to achieve the best cosmetic result possible. Whenever you put on your white coat, think 'have I got my switches right?' If not, relieve yourself."

Fortunately, I've never needed to, but I was grateful for the advice. Most students get none and, as all doctors do, they displace awkward emotions into black humour and another acronym is born (Remember TF Bundy? – Totally Fucked But Unfortunately Not Dead Yet). But how often do acronymous attitudes become real behaviours?

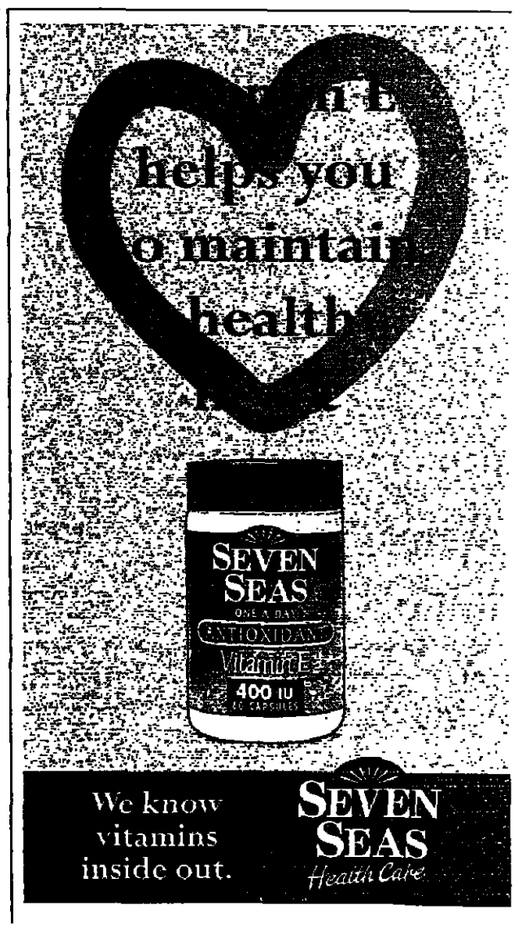
To my horror, the *Trust Me* researchers found that the female perception of a male doctor examining their breasts unnecessarily is not unusual. Young women spoke of having their breasts examined without explanation when they'd gone in with a sore throat, a prescription for the Pill, for a new patient registration or even a school medical.

Not only did it cause lasting anxiety, but breast specialists agreed that such routine or opportunistic examinations are clinically unnecessary.

So what can you do to prevent Tubes? No one's ever shoved ample breasts in my direction, and I suspect (or, at least, hope) that the number of patients and doctors who get sexual gratification from consultations is small. Many patients have entirely trusting relationships with their GP and are happy to let the doctor decide whether an examination is necessary.

However, there is no diagnostic value in breast examinations as a "while you're here, let's do it" screening procedure or as a routine check (except for HRT, but even this is disputed). Some patients and doctors may be reassured by it, but if you don't want one, decline.

For specific breast problems or symptoms that may be related to breast disease (eg bone pain) then an examination may well be justified, but the onus is still on the doctor to convince you of the relevance and gain your consent. Otherwise, it's assault.



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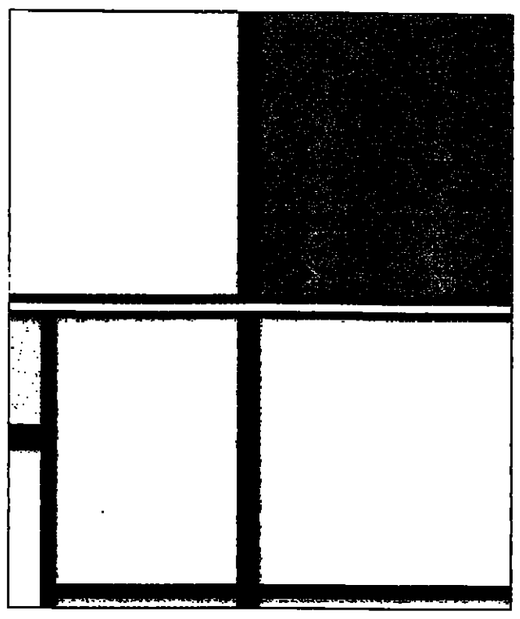

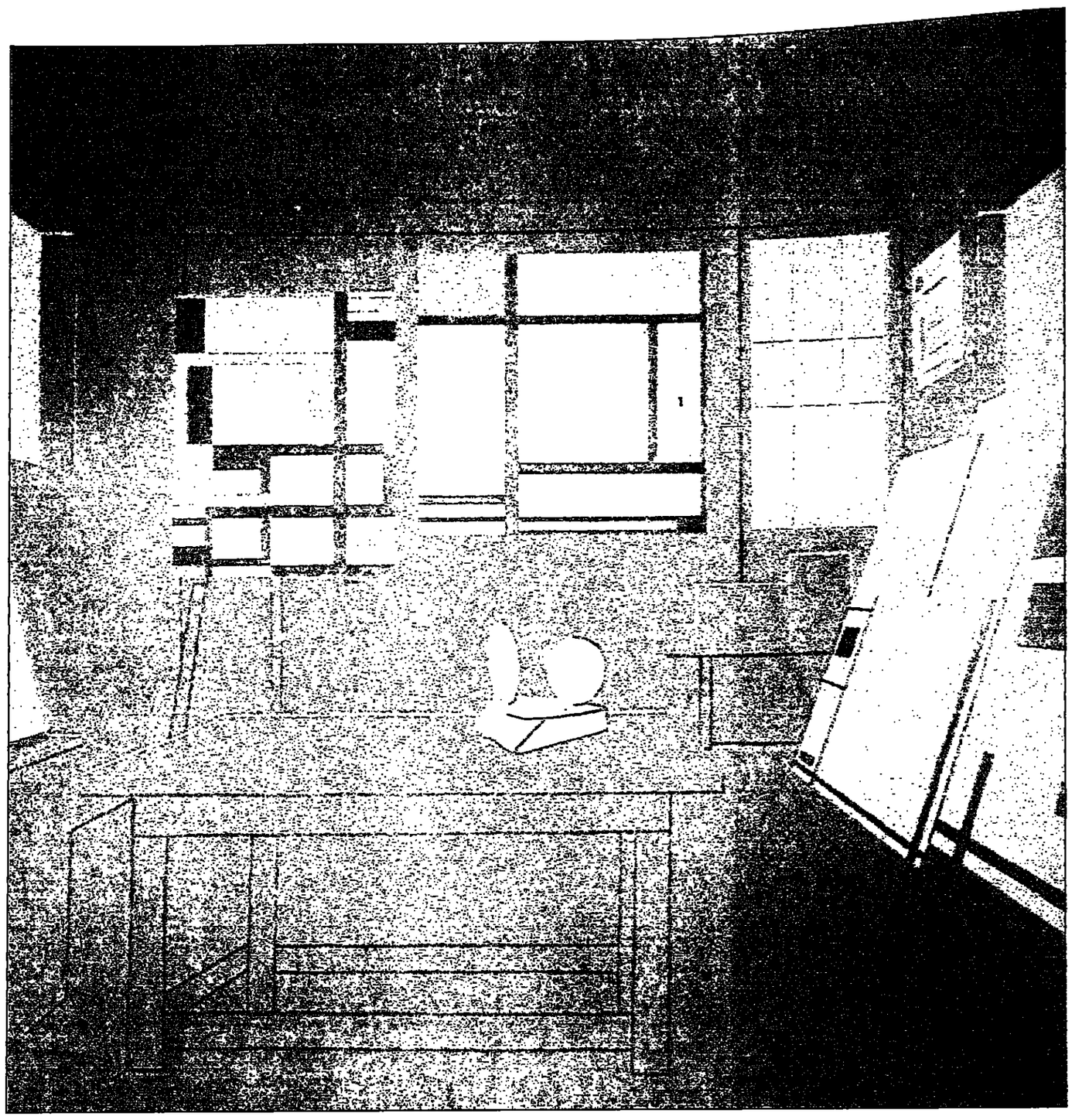

The project: to reconstruct the lost works of a dead and unjustly neglected artist.

The result: a case of misattribution or just mistaken identity?

Mondrian, you might well think, looking at the image at the top left of this page. It looks like a Mondrian. But it isn't. And in a way, writes *Tom Lubbock*, it couldn't be, because it does something that Mondrian never does.

In Mondrian's pictures that look like this, there's always at least one vertical line and one horizontal stretching right across the canvas, uninterrupted. Here the only vertical is broken, divided by two horizontals. That kind of rupture, Mondrian always ruled out. It's not a Mondrian. It's a Marlow Moss. A who?

Marlow Moss was a gay, British, female artist – what's the right order for those adjectives? – and a pupil-follower of Mondrian. She is, to put it mildly, little known. She lived from 1890 to 1958. She was christened Marjorie, and became Marlow, and adopted the clipped, mannish dress and haircut that was popular with more or less "out" lesbians in the early 20th century. She spent a good deal of time in Paris, exhibited alongside other De Styl artists, and ended up in Cornwall, where she kept very much to herself.

Moss made several other radical departures from the Mondrian way, one of them significant, because Mondrian borrowed it back from her. She introduced the Double Line, and you see it in this picture too, with its close parallels. It sounds funny to say that – "Oh, the Double Line, big deal!" – but when you reckon that much of the force and fineness of Mondrian's paintings from the late Thirties (his best, I think) depend on the use of double lines, it's a vital development. But Moss's name hasn't flourished, and partly because most of her work pre-1940 was lost when German bombs destroyed her French studio. Much is known only from photos. In fact the picture above isn't strictly a Marlow Moss. It's a Florette Dijkstra.

Florette Dijkstra is a Dutch woman artist in her early thirties who has an exhibition about Marlow Moss at the Tate Gallery in St Ives. Dijkstra has thoroughly researched the artist, and her centrepiece is a painted reconstruction of the works of Moss, not just the lost ones, but her complete known works. It's a chance, then, to know this unknown art – except that knowledge isn't exactly what the show offers.

Dijkstra doesn't attempt a literal reconstruction. All her "Moss" versions are miniaturised, done half-size. They're painted very perfunctorily and thinly, not with the sturdy and intense brushwork of Neo-Plasticism. What's more, their colours are standardised: throughout, all the reds, yellows and blues are the same unvarying red, yellow and blue. (Obviously some of the colours had to be guessed from black-and-white photos.) And then, a few of these canvases are blank, to represent pictures that are known from unillustrated catalogues. This isn't the recovering of a body of work; rather, something to stand in for it, the tokens of an *œuvre*. Accordingly, they're not hung in the normal way, but all close together in a block, about 60 items five rows high, up one wall – as if to say: that's the lot, a life's art, all that survives of it.

So while Dijkstra says that her project's "ultimate goal is to open up a new place in art history for Marlow Moss's work", the show doesn't do a straight reclamation job on a lost and neglected woman artist. It's more about loss and neglect, and making you feel the artist and her art at a remove. Photos of Moss and her Dutch lover exist, but none are in the show; there are only Dijkstra's vague drawings after those photos. Moss's sculptural constructions are represented only by another set of paintings, no 3-D replicas. There are images derived from a TV programme about Moss, a hand leafing through a portfolio (obliquely showing some of her later work, which is mostly in storage). Everything is kept distant, indirect.

A canny but unknowing viewer might even suspect that Marlow Moss never existed at all, is actually one of those fictional artists that artists invent – and that doubt would be to the exhibition's point. Moss might as well not have existed for all she's remembered, and re-establishing her now is a quasi-fictional enterprise, given how little of her and her work is known; and then thinking about how modern art history would look if Moss had a more central place in it, which arguably she deserves, makes you think this history itself is a kind of fiction. Who decides? Who tells the story? All those questions.

Not bad questions, but there's a danger of turning mischance into mystification. Moss, after all, is almost too good an example of a missing artist – she has everything not going for her. Much work destroyed, much squirrelled away from view; not just a woman, whose influence male artists may have been reluctant to admit, but a very retiring and reclusive operator who didn't really try to get into history. But still, she did exist and some of her work still does, and we can have news about it, rather than making it into an emblem of loss.

There is actually a real Moss on show in the next door gallery at the Tate, among real Nicholsons and Hepworths, while its half-size token hangs among the rest round the corner – a curious near-juxtaposition, but it's telling that the genuine article isn't in the same room as the replicas. It would rather break the cloud of unknowing that Dijkstra cultivates. It would let in the possibility of direct knowledge and response, and that seems the important thing, however late in the day, however little we have to go on.

Take the Double Line business: Moss started it, and should get credit for that, but it may still be true that the Double Line is only valuable because of what Mondrian did with it, not what Moss did with it. Originality isn't everything. To judge from the replicas, I'd say that was so, and that Moss's best work is when she departs further from Mondrian, with much more fractured scatterings of lines and oblongs. But from these small-scale, notionalised replicas, you can't really tell, and aren't really meant to.

The point is, it could be done another way. Dijkstra's treatment stresses our helplessness to know the absent work. But she or another artist might have been more helpful, might have taken on a more literal reconstruction of the Moss *œuvre*. The real issue this show raises is about originality in the other sense: the possibility of usefully transmitting an artist's work at second hand. Both modernism and post-modernism are against this. Modernism says that only the artist's authentic hand will do, that or nothing; there can be no valid substitutes for the unique handiwork. Post-modernism favours imitation as a way of casting doubt on the very idea of authenticity and uniqueness.

But it seems to me there's a middle way here, which allows for unique values in art, but allows too that some of that value can be usefully communicated by substitutes – eg by someone copying a picture very faithfully, or by somebody trying to repaint a lost picture, known from reproduction, as it might have been, drawing on surviving work of the artist (something like Deryck Cooke's completion of Mahler's 10th Symphony).

A gallery of such copies and reconstructions, seriously done, wouldn't be invalid. It wouldn't just be fakes and pastiches. Something of the originals could come through to us. Many old masters are known only through others' copies, but when the originals turn up, you find the copy often wasn't far off the mark. And, frankly, it can't be that hard to do a passable version of a Moss or even a Mondrian – not as hard as it would be to do a Vermeer. Besides, the De Styl artists set no store by individuality, so it would be quite in the spirit, too. Of course, I'm imagining a different show from the one in St Ives, and a different approach to art from any that now prevails: one not fussed about patent law, but very interested in the distribution of goods.

The Tate Gallery, St Ives (01736 796226), until 12 March.

Emblems of loss and neglect: is Florette Dijkstra's rough reconstruction of Marlow Moss's Mondrianesque 'Black, White, Red and Grey', 1932 *(top left)*, any more or less 'original' than Dijkstra's own 'Marlow Moss's studio in 1958' *(above)*?

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A poet of the edges of things

There's no doubt about it. Jeffery Camp is an artist of the old school. He's even written a couple of 'how to do it' guides – unambiguously entitled 'Draw' and 'Paint'. *Andrew Lambirth* **relishes the solid virtues and idyllic imagery of his art.**

There are one or two senior painters around who seem to be almost invisible to the general public. In all the shenanigans over the Young British Artists and the Turner Prize short list, some of the older generation have been unfairly eclipsed. Prunella Clough (born 1919) is one, and Jeffery Camp (born 1923) is another. Both work quietly away, held in high esteem by other artists, but strangers to the glare of fame or notoriety.

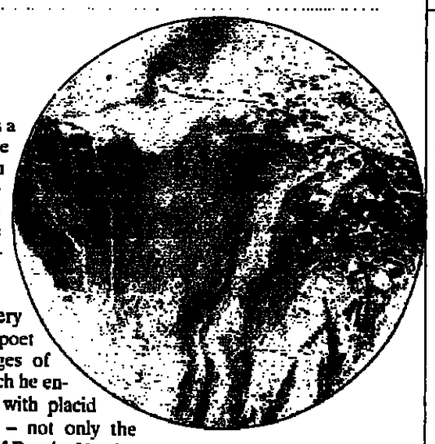
Camp taught for many years, working at the Slade School of Art from 1963 to 1988, but rather despaired that the teaching principles of his generation would be lost to future students. In this he was not far wrong. In partial remedy he decided to encode his ideas in book form: in 1981 *Draw* was published by Dorling Kindersley, and last year its sequel, *Paint*, appeared. In these two densely illustrated volumes, Camp energetically propounds his beliefs that art comes from detailed observation of the world around us, and from looking intelligently at art of the past. The style of writing is beguiling, idiosyncratic and poetic – all adjectives that could be used with justification to describe his paintings.

An exhibition of his work done over the past 25 years, but consisting mainly of new things, is currently on view at Browse & Darby. In all there are some 45 items on display, a courageous amount for a small gallery, considering that some of the paintings are very big indeed. But because Camp works in so many different sizes and formats, the pictures can be cunningly accommodated and indeed shown to very good advantage.

As you enter the gallery, three large paintings strike the eye with the force of Camp's variety and range. Opposite the door hangs *Beachy Head – night* from 1973. It is a vertiginous composition in greys and greens, painted on canvas on a dynamic eight-sided board, and some 93 inches high. To the left is a thin diamond shape, standing on its point, again of the drop of air beside the cliffs at Beachy Head. To the right is an even more extraordinary picture, a study in intense blues of a pair of lovers reaching into space after a yellow poppy.

Elsewhere in the gallery a marvellously red-lipped girl contemplates a feather, hang-gliders take off, fishermen beach their boats, or a cat hunts under a Thames bridge. These paintings have the tranquil inspiration of an idyll. Camp's particular dabbing brushstrokes marvel at the mysteries of creation, at the confluence of man and nature, flickering like the upthrust of a flame. As a colourist he has grown ever sweeter, whilst losing none of his compositional inventiveness. Jeffery Camp is a poet of the edges of things, which he encompasses with placid dedication – not only the cliff-edge of Beachy Head, but the frame within a frame he often uses to focus our attention. Here is a master at work.

Jeffery Camp is at Browse & Darby, 19 Cork Street, London W1, until 19 December, and in a mixed print show at Art Space, 84 St Peter's Street, N1 until 15 January



Marvelling at the mysteries of creation: Jeffery Camp's 'Fairlight Picking Blackberries', 1997 Browse and Darby

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Marital melt-down: having been the instigator of the counselling sessions at Relate, Trevor Collen, right, felt that the female counsellor 'sided' with his partner, Tracey
Photograph: John Lawrence

Wednesdays, BBC2, marriage on the rocks

We know why couples go to Relate. But what on earth possesses them to let television cameras in, asks *Brigid McConville.*

It has been riveting television. For four weeks now we've been able to watch couples in crisis being counselled at Relate, courtesy of BBC2's fly-on-the-wall documentary *Breaking Point*. We've empathised with their sadness, been moved by their hurt – and impressed by their struggles to understand each other.

To some extent we've all been there – yet most of us haven't broadcast our private wrangles to the nation. It's tough enough to salvage a troubled relationship without going so totally public. So why do people do it? And what – ultimately – does going on television do to *them*?

First of the series featured Trevor Collen, a research scientist in viral immunology, and his wife Tracey, a landscape gardener. Both "normal" people, parents of two young children, yet locked into a perpetual misery of bickering and blame. The film made it clear at once that Trevor's thoughtful, reserved personality is at odds with Tracey's quick-fire, up and down nature.

Unusually, it was Trevor who urged Tracey to go with him to Relate, and the film showed how they gradually learnt to listen to each other. It closed with them embracing, Tracey in tears, Trevor comforting her.

Since then, unfortunately, there have been many more tears from Tracey, much more comfort required from Trevor, because the fall-out from the film has caused the couple immense grief and upset. "Tracey feels extremely vulnerable," says Trevor, "as if people are whispering about her, and she has had a series of weird phone calls. She's also had bitchy comments from some women locally, such as 'how sad for you: we don't need help like that' – which is uncalled for and not true."

Cruelly – because he is a mild and well-intentioned man – various journalists have sneered at Trevor, calling him "gormless" and taking Tracey's "side" against him. "The press has been a lot ruder about me than about her," he says, "but that's set her thinking, 'God, I must be stupid to be married to *him*!' – instead of thinking that it's our life and it's how we feel that counts. The way she's reacting has set us back."

So why did they do it in the first place? "We were both so fed up about our relationship and our life that when we were approached we didn't consider the long-term implications," admits Trevor. "We also thought it would help people. But no, we wouldn't do it again."

Tracey has complained to Trevor that, in contrast to her own experience, the woman who was in *Driving School*, a fly-on-the-wall story about an attempt to get behind the wheel, is now a celebrity. So perhaps it was the chance of fame – or just being on telly – that drew Tracey in.

Trevor and Tracey also seem to have misunderstood what sort of film it would be. "We thought it would be a video for people who wanted to try counselling," says Trevor. "We never envisaged it going out on mainstream TV. We got the wrong impression – but on the other hand we didn't ask for it to be spelled out. It was our naivety: not a deception on their part."

Peter Gordon, who shot and directed *Breaking Point*, says: "We did make it very clear it was going to be broadcast on BBC. They saw it before it went out and they had the right to withdraw from it at any time during the counselling – and for two weeks afterwards. Relate also had a veto."

But is there an intrinsic conflict between the healing process of counselling and the revealing process of television, with all its attendant publicity? "I think so," believes Trevor. Both he and Tracey were in a poor mental state during their discussions with the BBC. "Tracey was undeniably depressed, almost suicidal," he says, "whereas I had been suffering from depression for some time. I've been on Prozac for the past three years. Perhaps that affected our decision making."

There is another, related issue which has again made things worse for Trevor. He has come to the conclusion that men don't get a fair hearing in counselling. "Relate do an excellent job of trying to stay impartial," he says, "but I don't believe it's possible. We are all unconsciously drawn to the person who speaks our language, and because most counsellors are women there is a problem for men before the thing even starts."

'The press has been a lot ruder about me than about her, but that's set her thinking, "God I must be stupid to be married to him!" – instead of thinking that it's our life and it's how we feel that counts. The way she's reacting has set us back'

Breaking Point didn't show it, but at one point, claims Trevor, their (female) counsellor sided with Tracey against him. "I got very angry and switched off, but both of us felt that things had gone wrong."

Subsequent press reports, in Trevor's view, have echoed this bias. Polly Toynbee, writing in the *Radio Times*, suggested that "maybe Tracey wanted the cameras to be there for the same reason that she eventually relented and agreed to go to counselling – to prove that she was right all along, and her husband was the one to blame. Then we'd all get to see the truth, and we'd all be on her side. (I was.)"

Not so simple, argues Andrew G Marshall, president of the Men's Counselling Association: "People exhibit different parts of the same problem," he says. "A wife complains her husband doesn't communicate – but when he does speak, she interrupts him. You are nearly always guilty yourself of what you complain about in your partner."

He agrees with Trevor, too, that men are often at a disadvantage in counselling.

"Counselling is a female language," he says. "It's what women do naturally over the kitchen table without even being aware of it. Men don't have the language.

"Men are very problem oriented; they want solutions. But counselling often isn't like that. We need to make men feel more comfortable and the differences between men and women have to be tackled. We need to get more men in – it's a scandal that there are so few male counsellors – and we must address how hard it is for men to speak the language of counselling."

Julia Cole, of Relate (where 15 per cent of counsellors are men), is adamant that sexist attitudes of any kind are always challenged in the training of counsellors at Relate. "We would very much value far more men as counsellors in Relate," she says, "and we do incorporate how a man may feel in our training."

On the vexed question of taking sides, she points out that "Relate counselling is about maintaining impartiality. It is a difficult issue – and journalists writing about the series have illustrated just how difficult it is. But the perceptions of people in counselling about fairness are bound to be different, and these differences can be part of the process itself."

The initiative to take part in the programme, she says, was very much left up to the couples: "Every new client at the time was given a letter which said: 'if you wish to opt in, you can contact the BBC'. At any stage they could have said 'we don't want to do it any more'. They are adults who took their own decision about being filmed, and Relate did seek to protect the couples to the best of their ability."

Relate, she adds, is "very grateful to Trevor and Tracey, who were extremely brave. If it has had a negative effect on their relationship then it is very sad, but they can have further counselling to help them get over the issues raised by the programme."

Julia Cole acknowledges that there were "risks in making the programme, but on the whole they were worth taking". Calls to Relate have gone up dramatically each time a *Breaking Point* programme is shown, she says, "which has an incredibly beneficial effect for people who feel their relationship is in trouble".

Peter Gordon also feels he could hardly have been more careful. "I've been making documentaries for a long time [including BBC 2's 1995 film *Family Therapy*] and I've never felt we've taken so much into account what people feel. We have re-cut and adjusted scenes: we've pulled a whole programme at the last hurdle because one of the couples was feeling very vulnerable."

His main ethical concern in these extremely intimate documentaries has been "what are the limits? The biggest area of self-censorship for those taking part has been the difficult things they had to say about their parents. In the end we decided we couldn't have someone saying what an unhappy childhood they had."

He says he has no idea why people agree to be in his films, except that – like Trevor – "nearly everyone who took part said they thought it might help other people. We're all interested in these stories for healthy reasons, but the closer you get, the more difficult they become. It's a complete minefield."

The last edition of 'Breaking Point' is tomorrow at 9.50pm on BBC2.

I was trying to find the courage not to play the clarinet

REVELATIONS

The time: 1957
The place: the Royal Academy of Music, London.
The man: Sir Harrison Birtwistle, composer

"I'll tell you something about being a composer and having the sort of education where creativity didn't belong. In art lessons the teacher would tell us to divide the paper up into squares and then fill them in with certain colours. Only there were some colours, red and yellow for instance, that weren't allowed to go next to each other, and nobody ever told me why. We were also told to do a silhouette of a town by putting a wash of blue then a wash of yellow, then a wash of red, and then you inked the rest in, and every single person in the class did the same thing. There was a sense of frustration there, no question of knowing what creativity was, or that it even existed. But when you are a kid you think that's the way the world is.

I had a chest of music I'd written from the age of nine, but that was a private world of writing that no one was interested in. Music was something that composers in the past did: it was a mysterious thing and slightly holy in a way, something you don't tamper with. It took me a long time to realise that I could continue doing this myself, that maybe this was something that I could really develop and make into something quite important, for me.

I was brought up to be a musician, but the thing about being a performer is that creativity never comes into it. Performing is something that can be taught. The people who play in an orchestra are middlemen. I wouldn't use the word "mere" performers, but it's not the same relationship with the material – theirs is an interpretive thing, and for me, whatever I've done, there's always been this creative aspect.

But I come from what used to be called a working-class background, and working-class backgrounds are all concerned with guilt and how you are going to earn your living. So I had the clarinet: that had been given to me, and that was my career. I wasn't the least bit interested in it. I wasn't good enough at it – I would have been a fairly reasonable second-rate orchestral player, I reckon. But I wasn't in a position to say "I want to be a composer" when I became a music student, because you couldn't earn your living doing that: it wasn't what people did.

Consequently, when I went to music school there was a real problem. I felt very much at odds because when I was writing music I was thinking maybe I should be practising, and when I was practising I thought there were more interesting things to do. I closed in on myself so far as my composition was concerned. My student persona was of a rather irresponsible wind player – I just don't think I was a very good student. My heart wasn't in playing the clarinet, and I had also decided that, in a sense, my student life was a waste of time. I was neither one thing nor the other; I hadn't made the big decision, and I didn't really write any music for five years.

Liberated: giving up the clarinet was the best thing that happened to Sir Harrison Birtwistle Clive Barda

But that period when I wasn't writing wasn't barren. I didn't have writer's block. It was a conscious decision not to do it. I was trying to find the courage not to play the clarinet. I don't think I was scared: I'm not sure what it was. I felt that the time wasn't right; I was biding my time.

The full story is that I'd won a four-year open music scholarship when I left school, and I did three years of that in Manchester, then I did two years' National Service in the Army, and when I came out I had a year left so I went to London, to the Royal Academy. And it was there that I met Alan Hacker, a wonderful clarinet player and a natural musician, and I heard him play the Clarinet Quintet of Mozart, and at last I realised that I would never be a clarinettist. He played like an angel. I'd heard some fairly dashing clarinettists in my life, but Alan was so brilliant. I knew I would never be within light years of that. It was a watershed. I sold my clarinets. I was doing a bit of clarinet teaching once a week at a girls' school, and I sold them to a pupil.

God, I tell you, it was a permanent release in my life. I was completely relieved. It's quite something that sometimes I feel happy and I don't know what it is and then I think, I know what it is; I don't play the clarinet any more. I felt I had cast off a lot of things that needed to be cast off: there was this feeling of being welded to the clarinet, that it was going to be my living, but I'd got rid of it, and it was a terribly liberating thing. And as one thing goes out of focus, another comes into focus, and in this case it was the possibility of being a composer, the confidence of thinking I had the wherewithal.

It was getting towards the end of that year, and at the same time I wrote a piece of music off the top of my head called "Refrains and Choruses", the first piece of music I'd written since being a schoolboy. In fact it was considered by the Royal Academy to be unplayable, even with a conductor, so I sent it to the Society for the Promotion of New Music, which had a concert at the Cheltenham Festival, and it was performed there and at the Wigmore Hall in London. I got a publisher through it and it was recorded by the Schoenberg Quintet, one of the most famous wind quintets going at the time – I remember getting this recording that had "Birtwistle and Schoenberg" on, because that was the order of the music on the record ...

Many years later I went back to the Royal Academy to do a seminar there and they played this piece for me, and it was played by students without any trouble at all, no conductor. I felt that the world had progressed in some ways. But the great thing about that piece was that it encouraged me to write the next piece, and I wrote another piece, and I've never stopped.

Interview by Nicholas Roe

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Social exclusion – stick to problems we know can be solved

EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE.
CANARY WHARF.
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171-345 2435

The season of goodwill is upon us so let's not sniff too suspiciously at the timing of yesterday's announcement about the Social Exclusion Unit in the Cabinet Office. That it came usefully close, for ministers with tender consciences, to tomorrow's vote on lone parent benefits was merely curious coincidence. Let's not, in the same spirit, commiserate with the residents of Lambeth's Stockwell Park estate. All too near Westminster, they have been on the receiving end of political visitations and the promises they bring for years and years – during which time they have continued to suffer from the ministrations of (Labour-controlled till recently) Lambeth Council.

Let's instead welcome the Unit. "Social Exclusion" does (in Professor John Hills' phrase) convey a concern with dynamics, the movement of people out of poverty. There is a serious point here, and a reason why the objectors to Labour's hard line on benefit levels are wrong. A lump of cash, handed out by the state, does not make a poor household part of the mainstream. A job does, as does a child attending school regularly with a reasonable chance of getting some GCSEs. Exclusion also has a geographical resonance. There are hundreds of identifiable blocks of housing, mostly local authority or housing association, which exist outside the norms, where crime, drugs, unemployment and disaffection have become a way of life. The solution here is rarely money for property refurbishment; the Tories spent wildly on the fabric of certain estates, to no obvious avail.

If the new Unit bends its mind to "including" people in work, schooling and ownership, this will be an administrative innovation worth celebrating. But will it? As a piece of machinery, it has a lot going for it. Here are a dozen youngish people, seven of them women, who in theory offer intellectual firepower and managerial experience (several of them have been recruited into Whitehall from the real world). They will be advising a Cabinet Committee chaired by the Prime Minister himself. On it, David Blunkett and John Prescott and Jack Straw will be invited to collaborate (and where necessary kicked) on a limited number of projects. The key word there is limited. If you want to change people's lives, concentrate on two or three things that will really work, and don't try to change the world. The Unit will succeed where previous attempts at co-ordination have failed if it focuses its fire on efforts that we know succeed. The head of the unit, Moira Wallace, seems to realise this: she may have a job convincing political bosses avid for quick fixes and glory.

The first issue tackled is one of the best, and most likely to bear fruit: reducing truancy and absence from school by preventive action. But that will have to involve education welfare officers, social workers, police officers, who will have to be co-ordinated. How will a new Unit achieve that?

In theory the Unit will go out and find examples of good practice and propagate them. Having no budget it will be in no position to bribe, only to persuade. But will the town halls and the chief superintendents and the probation officers and the voluntary organisations listen to a bunch of civil servants sitting at desks in Whitehall? We have, thanks to the Audit Commission, a vast knowledge of how the police and councils might run better. The difficulty is implementation, of ensuring that recommended changes are carried through on the ground. That is essentially a political task. Yet there seemed yesterday to be a curious political innocence about proceedings. During that walkabout in Lambeth, where were the councillors? Local authorities are run by elected politicians. Most of the areas where the socially excluded live are Labour controlled. Doesn't Tony Blair therefore need to make sure his own members are on song?

The Social Exclusion Unit has to bite on solveable problems where success can be measured. Take truancy, on which the Department for Education and Employment has just issued new guidelines. If, in six months' time, rates of absence from school are not falling, we will know this initiative is not having much effect. Similarly homelessness among the relatively small number of people released at age 18 from statutory care. And also the Unit's third priority, reducing crime on the "worst" local authority housing estates. We know enough – there have been enough previous initiatives – to say that zero tolerance of truancy or homelessness or crime is utopian. There may be a residual population which either won't be helped or cannot be brought into the mainstream. But the effort is worth making. Provided the Government does not raise unrealistic expectations (it might start by avoiding razzmatazz of the sort in evidence at Downing Street's "summit" yesterday), the Unit can make a difference. Let's hope it does.

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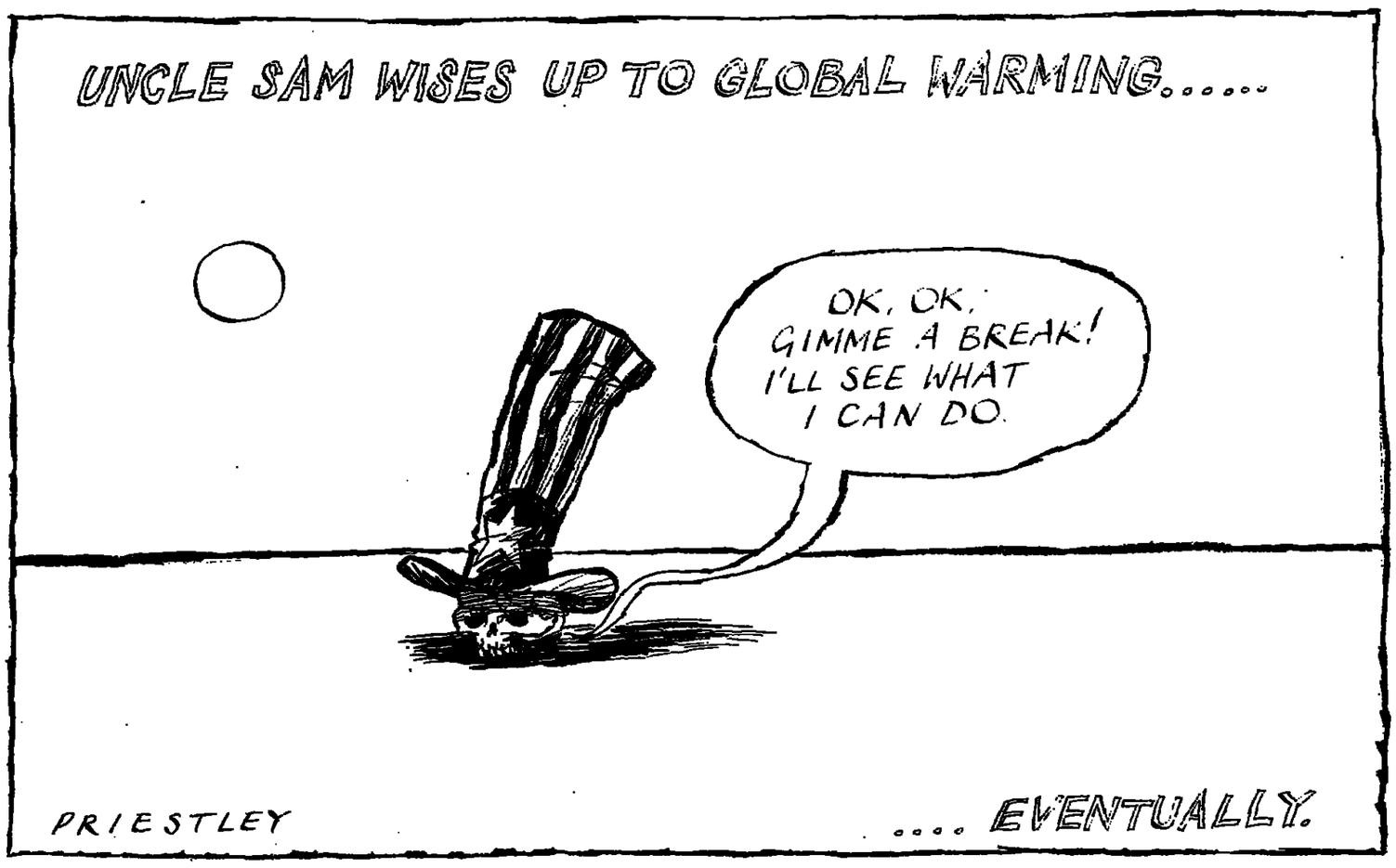
LETTERS



Include us all

Sir: I offer two cheers to the Prime Minister on his government's decision to create a Social Exclusion Unit (article, 8 December) with the aim of tackling problems caused by a lack of education, jobs and money, particularly in the inner cities.

It is important that the young have real opportunities for training and work, that the longer-term unemployed are given the skills they need, that the vulnerable and disabled are not forgotten, and that parents under pressure are provided the support they need. If we are not to become a society characterised by public squalor and private wealth, we must learn how to care for one another again. The Government's decision, therefore, to establish a special unit to grapple with social exclusion in a strategic and structured way, merits a cheer of welcome.

As the Government's programme gets under way, it is to be expected that many will want to get on to the bandwagon – dare I say, even those who have been the cause of much social exclusion that we see around us! In a way, this is a strength as people are recognising the urgency of the problem and there is much goodwill for a new government. On the principle of "those who are not against us are for us", such offers of co-operation should be encouraged and accepted. Another cheer.

That said, without the contribution of the churches the Government is in danger of missing a trick. That is why I cannot raise a third cheer. It appears that the Government is about to forget those who maintained a prophetic witness in this area, often against the odds. In the area of economic and social deprivation, it is the churches who have played a major role on the front line and maintained relentless pressure on sometimes unresponsive government over almost two decades.

Beyond their local presence and their social analysis, the churches have put their money where their mouth is. The Church Urban Fund, established as a result of the controversial *Faith in the City* report, has channelled significant funds into social and economic regeneration, as well as into the strengthening of local Christian communities and their ministries.

The churches have a wealth of experience and expertise to bring to the task of tackling the huge problem of exclusion in our society. They must be allowed to contribute to the policy and practice of the Government's programme in a significant way.

+MICHAEL NAZIR-ALI
Bishop of Rochester
Rochester, Kent

The MPs' oath

Sir: I take issue with your leader "Not fit to sit in Parliament? It is the oath that is not fit" (5 December). In taking an oath of allegiance to the Queen a Member of Parliament makes no statement about his views on the monarchy. He recognises a fact: the Queen is the head of state of the nation in whose governance he has been elected to take a part.

His intentions may well be to change that system, but by choosing the route of democracy he has chosen to recognise the current state of the system as a starting point.

It is spurious to make comparisons with amendments permitting those who do not believe in God to affirm their allegiance rather than to use the name of a deity in whose existence they do not believe: the Queen is head of state; belief in the Christian or any other god is a matter of opinion.

MEGAN C ROBERTSON
Crewe, Cheshire

Sir: Adams and McGuinness said in their election manifestos, and have repeated since, that they had no intention, if elected, of taking their seats in Parliament. That is the policy of Sinn Fein. They do not recognise the legitimacy of Parliament. Changing the oath will make no difference to that.

In effect, Sinn Fein have disenfranchised the two constituencies they were elected to represent. If these two have no intention of taking their seats, why do they want free offices, free faxing, photocopying, telephoning, e-mail and library facilities in the centre of London?

To argue that removing one more "symbolic barrier" to Sinn Fein's inclusion in democratic politics by giving them these facilities will make it more difficult for Mr Adams to use the "rhetoric of grievance and discrimination with his own tribe" (leader, 5 December) is to misjudge the IRA/Sinn Fein. They want a united Ireland regardless of the wishes of the majority in Northern Ireland, and whether the rhetoric of grievance is justified or not, they will use it in the pursuit of their objective.

BERT WARD
Middlesbrough

Sir: Charles Bradlaugh didn't refuse to take the oath when he was elected to Parliament in 1880, nor was the law amended in 1885 to enable him to take his seat (leader, 5 December).

As an atheist (and a republican), he objected to the religious oath and preferred non-religious affirmation; but when he was prevented from affirming he not only tried to take the oath eleven times but actually did so three times. His victories in two general elections and four by-elections didn't force a change in the law, because he was eventually allowed to take his seat after taking the oath in 1886. The law was changed to make non-religious affirmation possible when his own Bill was passed in 1888, but he died in 1891 before being able to take advantage of it.

NICHOLAS WALTER
Rationalist Press Association
London N1

NHS rationing

Sir: Your article "Fears persist over survival of full and free treatment on the NHS" (1 December) confirms that Labour's election pledge to save the NHS rings hollow.

It is an indictment of Labour's record to date that three out of four of those participating in the survey believe that by 2007 one of the core principles of the NHS – the provision of treatment free at the point of delivery – will be extinct.

The Government must acknowledge that the majority of people surveyed are willing to pay more tax if they could be sure it would lead directly to improvements in the health service. The gulf between what the NHS provides and what the public would like it to deliver is becoming steadily wider. Liberal Democrats believe that this can only be bridged by an increase in real-terms of funding for the NHS and an open debate on the rationing of health services. We call on the Government to come clean on whether it intends to provide the NHS with the resources it needs, or whether the shortfall will be made up by the imposition of patient charges.

SIMON HUGHES MP
(North Southwark and Bermondsey, Lib Dem)
House of Commons
The writer is Liberal Democrat health spokesman

No law for the poor

Sir: Geoffrey Hoon asserts (letter, 2 December) that small high-street solicitor's practices, if well managed, may well be better off with conditional fees than legal aid.

The true position is that these small practices are not going to be able to conduct personal injury claims on behalf of the poor. Most people, in my experience, rapidly become poor when laid off work through injury. They are going to be more anxious to use their reduced income to keep the mortgage paid and the kids fed than paying court fees, doctors' fees and insurance premiums. All the specialist expertise in the office is scarcely likely to change that.

Small practices need to be able to offer their clients a full range of services across a wide income spectrum. The Government's proposals attack that.

D G R NEWMAN
Warrington, Cheshire

Faith and violence

Sir: It might be helpful if we stopped viewing religion as a purely abstract phenomenon ("Religion in the Middle East: the fundamental problem", 3 December). Religious traditions involve the subjective responses of their adherents; in times of violent conflict texts are read in the light of the fears, anxieties and aggressions of the faithful.

This can lead to highly selective and biased interpretations which are indeed very dangerous. Instead of examining the tradition as a whole there is a tendency to focus on material which appears to justify violence. Such material is usually balanced by the ultimately humane visions of the faith communities, but in times of conflict these ideals can be drastically corroded.

It is vital for religious communities to take responsibility for the violence done in their name and challenge their extremist offshoots, but this can demand great courage and self-sacrifice.

JONATHAN GORSKY
Education Officer
The Council of Christians and Jews
London WC1

Sir: The dubious honour of being "the greatest act of ethnic cleansing and barbarism in the Middle East in a thousand years" should go not to the Crusades but to the sack of Baghdad in 1258 by the Mongols under Hulagu; contemporary accounts speak of half a million killed in the fall of perhaps the greatest city in Eurasia.

Mongol godbothering took the form of shamanism; they were indifferent to the religion of those they butchered. Ironically, in 1260, the Crusaders saved Islamic Egypt by a policy of benevolent neutrality to the Mameluke army which defeated the Mongols in Palestine

The Rev PETER HATTON
Droitwich, Worcestershire

Farming pickets

Sir: If the miners picket ports to stop coal coming in, the Government could use Tory legislation to confiscate National Union of Mineworkers funds. Do you think they will use those laws to confiscate National Farmers' Union funds? And if they don't, will William Hague urge them to do so?

W J HYDE
West Malling, Kent

Business sponsorship of the arts ... and what happens when it goes wrong

MILES KINGTON

Concluding our great new business story, "The Person You Have Rung Knows You Are Calling"!

Story so far: In an attempt to get business sponsorship for his small theatre company, Mickey is offering well-heeled businessmen the chance to play a small part in a play if they offer sponsorship (cash). Roger Dunstable, who is boss of a pipeline firm and has always wanted to go on stage, is the first to say yes, and has agreed to take the part of a corpse in a thriller.

Roger attended as many of the rehearsals as he could, and found them not unpleasant. Rehearsals seemed to be very like business meetings in lots of ways. For a start, they never started on time, because the unimportant people were very punctual and the more important people tended to be late. Also, as in business meetings, there were constant breaks for refreshment. Also, as in business meetings, there was a great pretence of democracy, but at the end of the day all the decisions were taken by one man.

At his meetings, it was Roger. At his rehearsals, it was Mickey.

"You must come on diffidently," said Mickey to Roger. "You're the long-lost relative from Australia. You don't know any of these people. You look around hesitantly, and 'Strewth, I've come 5,000 miles to see my relations and none of you even look like me!'"

"It doesn't sound diffident to me," said Roger. "It sounds truculent."

"Just pretend to do what he says," hissed Phoebe the actress in his ear. "Never argue with the director. If you really don't agree, do something different, but don't argue or he'll notice."

"OK," said Roger, to both of them.

Roger had such a small part that he didn't have to turn up at all the rehearsals, which was just as well, as a lot of his time was taken up by a deal he was working on, a major water industry deal which it was very important for him to get and he was often on the phone at rehearsals to Don Wellwright, the CEO of the other firm, hammering out the details. The actors would be emoting like mad on stage when they would hear Roger on his mobile shouting: "February 17th! For God's sake, Don, we agreed the end of March!" and a deputation would be sent down to lower his blood pressure, his decibels and his temper.

When he had to miss a rehearsal to go to a meeting with Don Wellwright, he sent along his personal assistant Derek to rehearse instead of him.

"Nobody can rehearse instead of you!" objected Mickey to Roger later.

"Derek can," said Roger. "He knows what I want. He'll give me a full briefing later."

"I don't think Roger understands the differences between theatre and business," said Mickey to the group. "I'm glad he has only got the part of the corpse. I wonder if he can manage it all right?"

As things turned out, he could. On the opening night he said his few words right, he fell dead at the right moment and he didn't move at all during the couple of minutes he had to stay on stage as the corpse.

The only thing that went wrong was that, as he lay there dead, his mobile phone started ringing.

And it was in his pocket. There, on stage.

Roger wondered whether to answer it or to be a professional (actor) and just lie there.

He just lay there.

The actor playing Inspector Hawkins (of the Yard) also rose to the occasion.

He retrieved the phone from the dead man's pocket and answered it.

"Hello?" he said.

He listened for a moment and then replied (in the character of Inspector Hawkins):

"No, I'm afraid he can't come to the phone. Why not? Because he's dead, that's why ... Yes. Very dead."

The man at the other end of the phone was Don Wellwright, who had rung up to mention some last minute detail about the deal to Roger and was horrified to find him dead.

"Who's that *talking*?" said Don Wellwright.

"Inspector Hawkins of the Yard," said the actor playing Inspector Hawkins of the Yard.

"Oh, my God," said Don Wellwright, and rang off.

The rest of the first night went very well, and Roger got a special round of applause as the corpse. It was also agreed that the man playing the inspector handled the situation very well.

However, when Roger got to work the next morning, he found that as he was now thought to be dead, Don Wellwright had rung up and cancelled the whole deal.

Worse even than that, Roger Dunstable had been replaced as managing director. His assistant Derek had moved into his office with all the speed of a man seeing an empty space to park in central London.

Roger and Derek were never to be quite on the same terms again.

MORAL: Always answer the phone yourself, even if you're dead.

Six fashionable clichés about new Labour

DONALD MACINTYRE

MARKS BLAIR'S REPORT CARD

Flaubert's *Dictionary of Received Ideas* mocked the thought-free clichés of the high bourgeoisie in 19th century provincial France. A latterday British Flaubert could have an equally high old time with the metropolitan Things They Say about the Blair Labour Party. Before we examine those which have crept into fashionable discourse since the election, let's first remind ourselves about some of those that were common before it.

It'll be the same old Labour Party once they get in. This was primarily a Tory mantra, though it was also secretly muttered by some on the left who thought of Blair merely as a necessary vehicle for getting Labour re-elected. In fact, all the signs are that Blair's exhortation to the Cabinet that "we were elected as New Labour, we will govern as New Labour" has proved to be true. A schools policy which sets up special education zones that bypass local authorities, that charges university tuition fees and builds bridges with the private sector is just one good example.

Blair, Brown and Cook are good but the rest of them aren't up to it. Hardly. There are certainly weak links; Gavin Strang and David Clark have not exactly overperformed. There will be a reshuffle before the summer of 1998, not least because there are some bright, ambitious ministers in the second rank. But in drive, attention to detail and enthusiasm for their jobs, Jack Straw, David Blunkett and Mo Mowlam have consistently starred in a surprisingly competent line-up.

Tony Blair's a nice guy but is too young/Bambi-like to be Prime Minister. This was a – largely submerged – theme among some some of those Labour modernisers after John Smith's death who agonised that Brown would make a better, stronger Prime Minister, even if not a more electable Labour leader. It is now clearly obsolete, but elements of it have resurfaced in a different, post-election form:

Blair is the company chairman/president/front man with a chief executive/ideas man behind him. Except in the world wonderfully conjured by Rory Bremner, where the Svengali-like man behind the scenes is Peter Mandelson, he is usually assumed to be Gordon Brown. The idea is that the Iron Laddie produces all the policies – popular and not so popular – while Blair gladhands round the world fostering the feelgood factor being – Bremner again – Prime Minister of People's Hearts. This is not the experience of ministers I have talked to over the past few weeks. Blair has spent inordinate hours, for example, going over the small print of schools' policy with Blunkett and today's health White Paper with Frank Dobson. Nor has he exactly let go of the detail of Northern Ireland, bringing talks to a stage at which he can see Gerry Adams without the world falling in. Detail is not a problem for his lawyer's mind. Yes, Brown is a hugely fertile source of ideas; but nothing, including the historic Commons EMU statement – as much Brown's as Blair's – is announced by the Chancellor without first being discussed, at length, with Blair. The suspicion partly arises because Blair's rather good at using charm where Margaret Thatcher used fear. But that doesn't mean he isn't as good at enforcing his will. There's no one else, not Mandelson, not Brown, not Sir Robin Butler, to ensure that a still rather disparate Cabinet works together. And who does the detailed, fellow heads of government squaring, preparatory work for European summits if not him? Even the Bernie Ecclestone affair may have given the impression that he is more gullible than he is. It now looks as if he was uneasy about the tobacco sponsorship ban long before he met Ecclestone. You may think he was wrong. But the experience is likely to make him trust his own instincts more rather than less.

The Blair government. All presentation and no substance. This may be almost precisely the opposite of the truth. So far most of the real problems have stemmed from presentation – either too much of it or the wrong kind – rather than the formulation of policy. It's sensible to dramatise the importance of the Social Exclusion Unit by travelling to a school in Stockwell, as Blair did yesterday, rather than by making a dry statement in the Commons. But enough, please, of the now empty phrase "People's Europe". The EMU crisis was more a problem of un-coordinated presentation than of serious policy disagreement between Downing Street and the Treasury. So too, perhaps, with some of the hostile reaction to last week's savings announcement. Incidentally Peps and Tessas had a warm quotable feel as names: The ISAs that have replaced them sound like nothing on earth. And, while we're about it, the Social Exclusion Unit is also a pretty forbidding name. Why not, at the very least, the Social Inclusion Unit? But you can't tot up the policies from an independent Bank of England to the NHS, last summer's budget, Northern Ireland and Scottish devolution and then complain of lack of substance.

They're just like the Tories. The ferocity of Gordon's Brown's spending limits – for the first two years – is usually cited as the prime example. But would the Tories have embarked on constitutional reform? Would they be introducing a minimum wage? Did they even want an agreement at Amsterdam? There is another, even more, fundamental difference: without Kenneth Clarke as leader, the Tories remain ideologically in the state-shrinking business. Blair shows every sign of being about a reallocation of public expenditure, to education, health, and his cherished cause of social inclusion, rather than cutting it overall. Blair does, through welfare reform, want to end what he believes to be the corrosive effects of the dependency culture. There are grounds for hoping that this hugely ambitious project will bite, in time, as deeply into some of the benefits of the most prosperous as it will as a result of tomorrow's Commons vote, on new, non-working lone parents. The short-term effects of the cuts may be harsh. But there is plenty to do with the money. Be wary of received wisdom. This is a man with a plan.

The new face of the revolution: Iranian women celebrate their football team's qualification for France 98 Photograph: Popperfoto/Reuters

The Iranian political football is passed to the adults

ROBERT FISK

DEMOCRACY IN TEHRAN

As the world's Muslim leaders flew into Tehran last night for today's Islamic summit, they could see beneath their aircraft the great golden-domed shrine of the Imam Khomeini. Visible under the arc lights over a 20-mile radius, it has been built to last for ever, an eternal memorial and place of pilgrimage to the man who created the world's first modern theocracy. But the aircraft making their final approach to Mehrabad airport over the shrine are carrying the presidents and princes of a world which has no more interest in the export of the Islamic revolution – Khomeini's creation – than the new government in Tehran.

For at the conference today, the hard men of the Iranian revolution – the Revolutionary Guards and the morally zealous komittees – will have no status. Hamas and Islamic Jihad and the Hizbollah and the other armed Islamist groups whom Tehran has supported, will have no representation. And despite all the promises to "liberate" Jerusalem from a nation – Israel – which Iran pledges never to accept, the Arab-Israeli crisis will be left to the Arabs to resolve. The truth is that Iran is far more interested in securing the friendship of its neighbours, in securing a lasting ceasefire in Afghanistan, in trade relations with the former Soviet Muslim republics and the Arab nations of the Gulf which Washington has for so long tried to line up against Iran.

True, Iran is happy to see the Arabs turning upon Turkey, whose new "security zone" in northern Iraq – every bit as oppressive an occupation regime as the Israeli version in southern Lebanon – constitutes a strategic threat to Iran itself. Turkey's military alliance with Israel – which allows Israeli fighter-aircraft access to Turkish airspace – means that for the first time ever Israeli jets can now fly along Iran's far north-western border. Iraq, whose 1980 invasion of Iran cost one and a half million lives in an eight-year war, has sent its foreign minister to Tehran where – grateful to Iran for its stand against Turkey – he is busy negotiating deals to exchange thousands of secretly held prisoners captured in the 1980-88 war.

Iran has just released 496 Iraqi soldiers held since the war. Iraq – which previously claimed it held only one Iranian pilot – now admits to having another 64, which it is ready to free. Iraq wants another 18,000 prisoners allegedly in Iranian hands. Iran is demanding 1,114 POWs still in Iraq. But the negotiations have begun and Iraq is even suggesting that it may close down the camps of the Iranian opposition outside Baghdad, which are still funded by the CIA.

The conference itself contains some typical contradictions. Iran has agreed to disagree over the compromises made by Egypt, the PLO and Jordan – which it regards as nothing less than their recognition of an Israel that Iran still calls the "Zionist enemy". Conference officials, as the Tehran newspaper *Kayhan* delicately put it, "emphasised the continuation of the compromise trend with Israel", while Iran insisted on "the total abolition of the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime".

And Iran's request for a Muslim human rights resolution is not going to condemn Saudi Arabia's vicious "Islamic" punishments, nor Yassir Arafat's brutal secret police, nor Iraq's mass executions, nor torture in Algeria – the bloodbath there, we are wearily told, remains the country's "internal affair". And delegates, who are being invited to visit Iran's stunningly beautiful shrines at Isfahan, Shiraz and Mashad, are not going to be offered conducted tours of the notorious Evin prison in north Tehran. Discussion of human rights abuses will centre, needless to say, on Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. In other words, Iran is acting very much like other states in the region. As Yassir Arafat, who hasn't been here in 15 years, and Crown Prince Adullah and the emirs of the Gulf arrived last night, they must have been asking themselves one question: what happened to the revolution?

It was, in reality, Khomeini's child. The Ayatollah wanted to cleanse Iran of the Shah's corruption and so he invented a dream: a pure and perfect society, humble only unto God, whose obedience was supposedly both innocent and childlike. And that, in a sense, was what Iran became – a nation of children. Through the system of *velayet-e-faqih*, Khomeini created a Supreme Leader, a kind of spiritual headmaster, never to be crossed or criticised or questioned. In the classroom of the streets, the "children" were taught simple chants containing supposedly ultimate truths: Death to America, Death to England. As at school, girls and boys were strictly divided; women became "sisters". Friends who did not always support the "children" became instant enemies. This was not childlike – this was childish, sometimes dangerously so. Foreign nations that dared to criticise the innocence of Khomeini's children were – naturally – devilish, evil, Satanic. Those who sought to overthrow this infants' paradise had to be liquidated. And thus Ayatollah Khomeini did not just recreate "innocence" – he juvenilised a society. There was obviously no place in the classroom library for books that suggested the teachers were wrong.

Now that society is growing up. Clerics and intellectuals are at last daring to question the divine right of Ayatollahs. President Khatami won in what was – horror of horrors for Washington – a fair election. Even the "children" of the villages who sent their sons to martyrdom in the war against Iraq ignored the 300,000 mullahs who naturally supported Ali-Akbar Nateq-Nouri, the candidate of Ayatollah Ali Khamanei, the current Supreme Leader. True, Khamanei has created a semi-parallel structure of government; the old foreign minister Ali-Akbar Velayati, has become the Leader's "senior adviser in international affairs", ex-president Rafsanjani now leads an "expediency council". But Khatami retains the support of the people – the children matured – and the tens of thousands who gathered in the streets to celebrate Iran's football victory last week were sending him a simple message: remember us. It was people power – not Islamic tracts – that secured the 1979 revolution.

It will take time for this enormous transformation – in its way as titanic a change as the revolution – to sink in. Khatami is as yet far from honouring all his promises on human rights. The courts are weighed down by anti-feminist judgments, the morality police still cruise the streets, the satellite dish is still illegal.

Nor should we forget that tragedy stalks the good in Iran. If President Khatami does create pluralism, his will be the only democratic nation in the Muslim Middle East. And we in the West prefer tyrants. We like our Muslim kings and generals because they do what we want – and are punished if they break the rules. Does Washington, for example, really want a de-bestialised Shiite Muslim nation, democratic – at least by Middle East standards – and powerful and rich as well as anti-Israeli? It is difficult to see how the US and its Israeli friends could tolerate such a state, which is why – when the US turns against Khatami – it will be proof that he has won his battle. Even the Americans, however, will be unable to deny that the first hairline cracks have appeared on the polished marble of the Imam's tomb.

Farewell to Mr Major's world, where chaps never resign

ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

THE OPERA HOUSE REPORT

John Major still doesn't get it. The former Prime Minister has popped up to deplore the tone and conclusions of the Select Committee report on the Royal Opera House. He seems to have been particularly taken aback by the call for the resignation of the chairman, Lord Chadlington. According to Mr Major, Lord Chadlington, a friend, was "the solution, not the problem, and the recommendation that he should resign was bizarre".

In Mr Major's world, chaps don't resign. Whatever their mistakes, they are always well intentioned, and so they carry on. I dare say Mr Major thought that his failed Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont, had just the qualities he ascribes to Lord Chadlington, and that is why he allowed him to stay in office after his policies had resulted in the country's humiliating expulsion from the European exchange rate mechanism.

As a matter of fact, Lord Chadlington doesn't think that he did a bad job as chairman during the past 12 months or so, but he still resigned when called upon to do so by a unanimous parliamentary committee. As he explained to Deborah Ross in *The Independent* yesterday, "It seemed, in the circumstances, the only honourable thing to do. Lord Carrington, who is something of a hero of mine, resigned over the Falklands crisis even though it wasn't his fault. Someone had to accept responsibility, so he did. I am accepting responsibility in this instance."

Lord Chadlington, who is virtually the same age as John Major, thus reaches back to an older tradition of public service. Lord Carrington was Foreign Secretary in 1982 when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. For him the war represented a failure of diplomacy, and so he left office. Lord Chadlington said that he spent 18 years supporting the Tory governments but when he looked back "the one thing they did wrong was not accepting responsibility when things went wrong".

Given that Mr Major is puzzled by such a "bizarre" attitude, he should contemplate the devastating results of the monthly Gallup poll published in *The Daily Telegraph* last Friday. The headline accurately summed up the findings: "Labour stumbles but the Tories are cursed with a mark of Cain". Over 60 per cent of the electorate believes that the Tories are mean-spirited, incompetent, arrogant, out of touch with the modern world, not concerned with ordinary people, lacking in a clear sense of direction and divided.

If you believe that resigning when things go wrong on your watch comes from an out-of-date code of honour, then it follows that any reports that may be written to explain disasters should avoid calling a spade a spade. "Type of garden implement" would be more judicial. At least I think that is what Mr Major meant when he said that select committee reports should "err in understatement ... they should acknowledge difficulties in dealing with complex problems, and, above all they should be demonstrably fair". The report on the Royal Opera House fails these tests, according to the former prime minister.

As a matter of fact I read the report with some trepidation. Press coverage had warned how strong the language was. The pen of the chairman of the committee, Gerald Kaufman, had apparently cleared away all ambiguities and thus the account was written in unusually clear language. Had Mr Kaufman let himself be carried away, and with him his fellow members of Parliament, Labour and Tory alike?

Not at all. It is a very muscular report. It engages with the witnesses as they come forward to explain away the disasters over which they presided. Excuses are tested and often found weak. In effect the committee said to the former chairman, Sir Angus Stirling, and the former director, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, you say that the trustees believed this and thought that. Very well, let us inspect the board minutes and see if they confirm your account.

The committee's conclusion is that Sir Jeremy sought to hide the "abysmal failure" to find a home for the opera and ballet companies during the rebuilding of Covent Garden. Likewise when the MPs were told that a finance committee examined, month by month, the actual and projected income against budget, they asked to see a month-by-month balance sheet to demonstrate the path of the deficit. In reply, the present chief executive, Mary Allen, replied that it was not possible "to let you have the financial information you have asked for, since the Royal Opera House has not in the past produced it". One of Ms Allen's colleagues explained: such financial forecasts as existed were left on a shelf while planning proceeded willy nilly without reference to them.

This carelessness with public money has been going on for a long time. An inquiry conducted as long ago as 1983 found that a greater priority must be given to financial objectives in the trade-off with artistic desires. In 1992 Lady Warnock discovered that "there are no indications as to how the closure period of 30 months will be financed, what activities the Royal Opera House might pursue during this period and where these activities might take place". Even Lord Chadlington seems to have been cursed with the same debilitating lassitude from which his predecessors suffered. When he began his chairmanship, there was no qualified finance director in post. It took him 10 months to install one – and this dilatoriness in the midst of a financial crisis!

So the select committee decided to recommend something which is no doubt completely incomprehensible to Mr Major – sack the lot of them. The former prime minister would have conducted a well-balanced re-shuffle with perhaps one or two minor casualties, while Mr Kaufman's committee administered shock treatment. I say, thank goodness the connection between office and responsibility has been re-established in the public service. Even poor Lord Chadlington, fallen as he is upon his sword, agrees with that.

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Lord Wyatt of Weeford

Woodrow Wyatt: 'The Voice of Reason'

Woodrow Lyle Wyatt, politician and journalist: born 4 July 1918; founder and Editor, *English Story* 1940-50; MP (Labour) for Aston 1945-55, for Bosworth 1959-70; weekly columnist for *Reynolds News* 1949-61, *Daily Mirror* 1965-73, *Sunday Mirror* 1973-83, *News of the World* 1983-93; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Financial Secretary, War Office 1951; Chairman, Horserace Totalisator Board 1976-97; Kt 1983; created 1987 Baron Wyatt of Weeford; married 1939 Susan Cox (marriage dissolved 1944), 1948 Nora Robbins (marriage dissolved 1956), 1957 Lady Moorea Hastings (one son; marriage dissolved 1966), 1966 Veronica Banszky von Ambroz (née Racz; one daughter); died London 7 December 1997.

Woodrow Wyatt always tried to live like a lord even when he was a Labour MP. He owned racehorses, drank on average nearly two bottles of wine a day until his doctor and his liver rebelled, and travelled politically from the soft left to the far right accompanied by a succession of beautiful women and a cloud of Havana cigar smoke. It seemed only fitting that he should end as chairman of the Tote and one of Mrs Thatcher's life peers. For more than half a century his trademark was his floppy bow tie and his most useful achievement, despite his considerable talents and early promise, was to secure the patronage of the powerful and famous.

He wanted above all to attain political success. He failed in this despite sitting in the Commons for 21 years and the Lords for 10. The only office he obtained was Under-Secretary at the old War Office and that lasted six months.

One reason for his failure was bad luck. Redistribution cost him his first seat and for long periods Labour, his original party, was not in office. But the most important reason for this lack of success was Wyatt himself. His undoubted charm was offset by a rasping personality and often his actions alienated admirers and even close friends.

His main influence was outside Parliament. He was one of the first television stars produced by the new-style current affairs programmes of the 1950s. He used his position to stop the engineers' union coming under Communist control and, more spectacularly, he played a leading part in the five-year campaign to prise the Communist grip on the electricians' union. He considered, rightly, that these provided his greatest triumphs.

He also wrote newspaper columns for the Mirror group and the Murdoch organisation. His *News of the World* column, deliberately and excessively populist, was somewhat improbably titled "The Voice of Reason". He believed these columns gave him power. Whether they did is arguable. Tabloid columns fascinate politicians more than voters. But what they did was to establish him to re-enter the political scene from which he had been rejected.

The Tote also gave Wyatt a role in society. To millions who did not read his articles he was the man who escorted the Queen Mother at the races and spoke on behalf of the industry. The annual Tote luncheon was an extravagant affair, attended by ministers, widely reported by the media and with invitations greatly prized. In some ways it summed up the Tote. Under Wyatt the organisation was glamorous but not dynamic. Despite bringing it into profit, his reign over its 200 betting shops had come under criticism for years. A Home Office report as long ago as 1989 called the Tote a vastly under-used asset, criticised his chairmanship and contained a barely disguised suggestion that he should step down. How then, did he retain the post for the following eight years? His critics had a cruel answer – cronyism and flattery.

Wyatt was first appointed in 1976 by, it was said, Harold Wilson. This was untrue. Wilson detested him. Wyatt was appointed by Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary and an old friend from Gaitskellite days, who thought the job would cheer him up. Successive Conservative Home Secretaries confirmed Jenkins's choice. They may have truly believed he was the right man for the post but they could also be sure of something else: puffs in Wyatt's columns.

In 1994, for instance, Michael Howard, who was being being repeatedly mauled at the time, received three favourable columns in two months. A typical headline was "Blaming Howard is the Real Crime". Howard reappointed him the following year. The position was not advertised and no other candidate was considered. Wyatt was first past the post in a one-horse race.

Prime Ministers were not overlooked. When John Major was deep in trouble he could rely on Wyatt to call him "a remarkable statesman". Another Wyatt headline announced "Why We Must Back Major". His closest relationship, however, was with Margaret Thatcher. His feeling for her was almost idolatrous. He was said to be the only journalist who could telephone No 10, ask for the Prime Minister and be put through at once. She made him a life peer in 1987. And in 1990 one of her last acts as Prime Minister was to ensure that he kept his job for another term.

Woodrow Lyle Wyatt was born on the Fourth of July 1918. His mother, in a burst of Allied enthusiasm, named him after the American president, Woodrow Wilson. There were famous architects, painters and sculptors among his ancestors and an England Test captain, R.E.S. Wyatt, was a relation. In contrast his father was an unsuccessful and unhappy preparatory school headmaster who despised the young Woodrow for not being good at games and beat him regularly. He also made him stand behind his armchair and stroke his bald head for hours at a time. Wyatt grew to hate his father but remembered how some people liked to be stroked.

Public school was no better than home. He was sent to Eastbourne which he resented for snobbish reasons. He would have preferred Eton or at least Marlborough. He got on badly with his headmaster, who beat him just as his father had done. Each term he wrote in his diary: "Never forget how much you hated it here." He never did. Oxford in contrast was paradise. He read Law at Worcester, became a dandy, wore black silk pyjamas during the day, discovered women and edited a couple of magazines. He got a respectable Second as the Second World War approached. He enlisted as a private even before it was declared.

He had a good war. By 1944 he was a major and went to France on D-Day plus one. He survived to be posted to India where he met Congress leaders and left-wingers and was considered a possible Communist by British Intelligence. He had become a Labour supporter – originally as a reaction against his father, who hated socialism – and a Labour MP, Fred Bellenger, met him and was sufficiently impressed to get him on the list of candidates. Wyatt was recalled to Britain to fight the 1945 election and to his surprise won Birmingham Aston by 5,767 votes. At the last general election in 1935 the Conservative majority had been more than 10,000.

He was then very much to the left. He wrote for *Tribune* and the *New Statesman*. In the House he joined the Keep Left group. When he returned to India as a member of the Cripps mission he led the singing of the Red Flag at a viceregal reception.

All this changed. After the Bevan-Wilson-Freeman resignations in 1951 his party split. Wyatt also split – away from his *Tribune* colleagues. He wrote to Attlee saying he was moved by the way he had responded to the crisis. Attlee responded, rather surprisingly, by making him Under-Secretary at the old War Office. Wyatt described his feeling at the time as "rapture". But six months later the Government fell and he never held office again.

At the 1955 election worse happened. He lost his seat. Aston's three wards were redistributed among three other constituencies and Wyatt failed to be chosen for any of them. In 1959 the only seat he could get was Tory Grantham, a hopeless proposition. But his campaigning brought him to the attention of Grace Wyndham Goldie, founding mother of BBC current affairs programmes, and she made him a star as a roving reporter on the new *Panorama* programme. Television fame helped him more than anything else in his quest for a winnable constituency. After several rejections he was selected as the candidate for Bosworth. By 1959 he was back in the House.

Wyatt became one of Hugh Gaitskell's intimates until his erratic views began to irritate even the right-wing Labour leader. He campaigned for relief for surtax payers, for a Lib-Lab pact and British entry into the EEC. Shortly before Gaitskell's death he exploded at Wyatt: "Why don't you stop embarrassing me?"

Harold Wilson, his successor, took the same view, particularly when Wyatt looked like halting steel nationalisation by exploiting Labour's tiny majority after the 1964 election. But the 1966 election saw Wilson coasting home and Wyatt ceased to be a danger.

He also ceased to be an MP. He lost Bosworth in 1970 and his increasingly right-wing views meant that he would never be selected for a Labour seat again. Instead, he tried to become a provincial newspaper baron, buying the *Banbury Guardian*, starting several new papers, and pioneering colour printing. Circulations grew but advertising did not. His papers went under and eventually he had to sell his printing plant as well.

His columns were dropped by the Mirror Group but he was taken up immediately by the Murdoch organisation, where his articles in the *News of the World* reflected the prejudices of his readers as well as his own. Sometimes he came perilously close to racism. And in one campaign, when he tried to discover the voting records of BBC journalists, he came close to McCarthyism too. Wyatt also wrote a column for the *Times*, though in a rather different style.

Yet despite his consistent progress to the right he never took the Tory whip. Indeed he would often say that he had never been a Conservative and never would be, though he was a Thatcherite. There is no doubt he was closer to Margaret Thatcher than most of her colleagues. Towards the end of her premiership he wrote: "Perhaps I am a little in love with her, platonically of course."

His many non-platonic affairs were revealed in relentless and colourful detail in his autobiography, *Confessions of an Optimist* (1985). He also had four wives, though only two are mentioned in *Who's Who*. His first wife was Susan Cox. They met at Oxford, married during the war, and were divorced so that she could marry a fellow civil servant. He next married his secretary, Alix Robbins. They remained together for five years.

Wyatt's third wife – from 1957 to 1966 – was Lady Moorea Hastings, the half-Italian daughter of the 15th Earl of Huntingdon. He was fascinated by her and she also had money, which he admitted was a help. It was helpful when she put it into his business but less helpful when she took it out. She left him for a man who, Wyatt admitted generously, was better-looking and more amiable.

His great and lasting love was his fourth wife, Veronica ("Verushka"), the Hungarian widow of a Harley Street consultant. They married in 1966 and he always said that even the thought of life without her brought on desperation. Their daughter, Petronella, followed her father into journalism. Pericles Plantagenet Wyatt, the son from his marriage to Lady Moorea, runs a bar in California and does not visit England.

– Terence Lancaster

Stanislaus Rapotec

Stanislaus Rapotec, painter: born Trieste 4 October 1913; married 1961 Andrée Du Boise (died 1976; one stepson, one stepdaughter); died Sydney 18 November 1997.

Stanislaus Rapotec, a leading Australian painter since the Sixties when he was an exponent of "abstract expressionism", was a "big" artist in more ways than one. He obtained several Australian prizes, was made a member of the Order of Australia, his works are to be found in galleries and collections from Sydney to the Vatican Modern Gallery of Religious Art, yet he had never had any formal training, and never fitted into any school or establishment.

Born in 1913 of Slovene parents in Trieste, he grew up in Ljubljana from 1918, when Slovenia was united with the other south Slav lands in the new state of Yugoslavia. After his military service in Sarajevo, he read economics in Zagreb, where he was active in student politics, at inter-Yugoslav level, and in the International Students Federation. From 1939, he worked for a bank in Split, where he also took up painting.

After taking part as a reserve subaltern in the short April 1941 campaign that followed the German invasion, he made his way back to Split, where an embryo organisation of Yugoslav-minded patriots sent him to contact the Yugoslav government that had gone into exile and the Allies.

Rapotec had been brought up in the spirit of Yugoslav unity; he had friends of various political leanings, in Split, in Ljubljana, in Zagreb, in Sarajevo, in Belgrade. Through one-time student contacts and former brother officers who had now joined the army of the "Independent State of Croatia", with the cover of a Red Cross delegate, he made his way to Istanbul. He was taken to Jerusalem to meet Julian Amery (the future Lord Amery of Lustleigh) of the British Special Operations Executive.

He was soon selected for one of the missions sent by the Yugoslav military and SOE into occupied Yugoslavia. In January 1942, he was landed on the Adriatic coast; in July, he was back in the Near East. For a while he was feared lost, as he made his way from Split to Mostar, thence to Zagreb where he stayed for two and a half months before journeying on to Belgrade, and out to Turkey – hunted by the Germans.

During that time, he had met representatives of General Mihailovic, local Chetnik armed groups in the Italian zone, Croat and Slovene politicians, young Croatian army officers, surviving Serbs and Jews in Zagreb, and he had had long meetings with Archbishop Stepinac.

His detailed reports were lucid and unprejudiced, but, although he knew more about what was happening in partitioned and occupied Yugoslavia in 1942 than most people in the Allied camp, what he said appears not to have been to the liking of those to whom he reported. Most of the intelligence brought out by him was probably (and unfortunately) not passed on to London, but kept in Cairo by Yugoslavs and British there.

Rapotec continued to serve with the Yugoslav battalion in the Near East. After the war, he emigrated to Australia, where he took up painting. In 1955 he moved from Adelaide to Sydney, where he began to develop his bold, large, abstract expressions of myths, rituals and architectural forms. From the Fifties his works were exhibited also in London, Paris and Rome, and in the United States.

Rapotec was a big man, full of life, with a booming voice, and an infectious laugh. He made and kept friends, not only among painters – with British admirals, wartime Slovene and Serb brother officers of the Yugoslav army, poets, opera singers. The years of his marriage were a happy period of shared enthusiasms, when he found inspiration for his famous cathedrals series in visits to Europe, as well as all sorts of solid and unadorned artefacts for the 1830s Double Bay house that had become the Rapotec home.

Following the death of his wife, Andrée, he came to spend more and more time travelling and painting in Europe. From an Alpine village on the Austrian side of the border, he looked at his native Slovenia.

In February 1995, he suffered a heavy stroke, from which he never recovered. "To become an artist, you must have a life rich with experience, a strong desire to express yourself, a will strong enough to carry out this desire, and . . . talent," he once said.

– Stevan Pavlowitch

Rapotec: 'To become an artist, you must have a life rich with experience'

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

WEBB: Andy and Helen are proud to announce the birth of their son, James Henry, born 7 December, a little brother for Matthew.

DEATHS

DAINTON: Frederick Sydney (Lord Dainton of Hallam Moors), died in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, on 5 December. Funeral on Friday 12 December at the Oxford Crematorium at 2pm. No flowers by request but, if desired, contributions to Student Hardship Fund c/o the Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, would be very welcome.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace. **The Duke of Edinburgh**, Senior Trustee, attends a meeting of the trustees at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10; as Fellow of the Royal Society, chairs a meeting of the Prince's Scottish Board of Patrons at Buckingham Palace; and, as Patron and Trustee, hosts a dinner for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charter for Business at Buckingham Palace. **The Duchess of Kent**, President, presides at the winning entrants at Awards Ceremony, at the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Greater Manchester. **Princess Alexandra**, President of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, attends a Carol Concert to be held by the Scottish Events Committee in the Fenwick Gallery, Cathedral, and visits Lanskiff Court, Lanskiff Street, Kenning Park, Glasgow.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment marks the Queen's Life Guard at **Horse Guards**, 11am.

Birthdays

Miss Joan Armatrading, singer, 47; Sir Nicholas Bonsor, former MP, 55; Mr Beau Bridges, actor, 56; Miss Susan Bullock, soprano, 39; Sir John Burgh, former President, Trinity College, Oxford, 72; Dame Judi Dench, actress, 63; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor, 81; Mr Douglas Fairbanks Jnr, actor, 88; Miss Dawn Freedman, circuit judge, 55; Mr Benny Green, musician, writer and broadcaster, 70; Mr Geoffrey Hankins, former chairman, Fitch Lovell, 71; Mr Robert Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia, 68; Professor Gabriel Horn, Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 70; Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, former President, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 71; Mr Ian McIntyre, writer and broadcaster, 66; Sir Michael Mann, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 67; Mr Donny Osmond, singer, 40; Miss Isobel Poole, Sheriff of the Lothian and Borders, 56; Lord Rees QC, former MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 71; Mr David Rider, disc jockey, 57; Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, operatic soprano, 82; Sir Peter Smithers, former MP, 84; Miss Rita Stephen, former trade union leader, 72; Miss Joanna Trollope, author, 54.

Anniversaries

Births: John Milton, poet, 1608; Johann Joachim Winckelmann, art historian, 1717; Prince Peter Alexeyevich Kropotkin, Russian revolutionary and geographer, 1842; George Grossmith, actor, 1847; Joel Chandler Harris, creator of "Uncle Remus", 1848; Clarence Birdseye, inventor of the deep-freezing process, 1886; Lancelot Thomas Hogben, scientific writer, 1895; Hermione Ferdinanda Gingold, actress and entertainer, 1898; Richard Austen Butler, Baron Butler of Saffron Walden, statesman, 1902. **Deaths:** Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, 1641; Edward Hyde, first Earl of Clarendon, statesman and historian, 1674; Joseph Bramah, locksmith and inventor of the hydraulic printing press, 1814; Dame Edith Sitwell, author and poet, 1964. **On this day:** the first execution took place in Newgate Prison, London, 1783; Richard Strauss's opera *Salome* was performed for the first time, Dresden 1905; an Arab rising in Palestine was violently put down by the Ottoman army, 1910; Jerusalem (held by the Turks) surrendered to General Allenby, 1917; the Eighth Army opened its offensive in North Africa by attacking Sidi Barrani, 1940; China declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy, 1941; in Yugoslavia, Josip Tito formed his own government, 1943; the republic of Indonesia was established, 1949; the first episode of *Coronation Street* was televised, 1960; Tanganyika became independent, 1961, and a republic in 1962; Lech Walesa was elected president of Poland, 1990. **Today** is the Feast Day of St Budoc or Beuzec, St Gorgonia, St Leocadia, St Peter Fourier and the Seven Martyrs of Samosata.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Angela Cox, "Victorian Paintings on the Grand Staircase", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Oliver Collins, "Matisse's Sleeves: the art of great figurative painting", 1pm.

National Portrait Museum: Toba Mann, "Edith Sitwell: a second flowering 1939-64", 1.10pm.

LAW REPORT: 9 DECEMBER 1997

Patient could not claim against health authority

A patient to whom a district health authority owed a duty under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to provide after-care services following his discharge from detention under section 3 of the Act had no private law claim against the health authority for damages for negligence or breach of duty, and in any event public policy precluded him from making a claim which was based upon his own illegal act.

Clunis v Camden and Islington Health Authority: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Potter and Mrs Justice Bracewell) 5 December 1997

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Camden and Islington Health Authority against the refusal of their application to strike out a claim for negligence and breach of duty brought against them by Christopher Clunis.

The plaintiff, who suffered from a mental disorder, was discharged from hospital on 24 September 1992 after having been detained under section 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983. He moved into the area of a different health authority, and failed to attend two hospital appointments which had been made for him. The psychiatrist who had been designated as the responsible medical officer under section 118 of the 1983 Act arranged a mental-health assessment visit at the plaintiff's address, but he left before the visit.

He failed to attend a further appointment, and on 17 December 1992 local social services told the psychiatrist that the police had called them to say that the plaintiff was "waving screwdrivers and knives and talking about devils", although the police appeared to have taken no action to remove him to a place of safety under section 136 of the 1983 Act. Later that day, in a sudden and unprovoked attack, the plaintiff stabbed and killed Jonathan Zito. He was charged with murder, and his plea of guilty to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility was accepted. He was ordered to be detained in Rampton Hospital, subject to the special restriction in section 41 of the Act.

Stephen Irwin QC and Jonathan Glasson (Thanki Novi Taube) for the plaintiff; John Grace QC and Andrew Grubb (Beachcroft Stanleys) for the health authority.

Lord Justice Beldam, giving the judgment of the court, said that the plaintiff claimed that he had suffered injury, loss and damage because the health authority had been negligent and responsible for breach of a duty of care at common law to treat him with reasonable professional care and skill. Had he been assessed before 17 December he would either have been detained or would have consented to become a patient, and would not have committed manslaughter.

The court would be precluded from entertaining the plaintiff's claim by the public policy that it would not lend its aid to a litigant who relied on his own criminal or immoral act, unless it could be said that he did not know the nature and quality of his act or that what he was doing was wrong. A plea of diminished responsibility accepted that the accused's mental responsibility was substantially impaired but it did not remove liability for his criminal act. Since the plaintiff's case was essentially based on his illegal act of manslaughter, the appeal would be allowed on the ground of public policy.

The duty to provide after-care arose under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983. The character of that duty seemed closely analogous to those described in *X (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council* [1955] 2 AC 633 as requiring exceptionally clear statutory language to show a parliamentary intention to create a private law cause of action for failure to carry them out. The wording of section 117 was not apposite to create such a cause of action.

The plaintiff had submitted that, in effect, the relationship of doctor and patient which had existed between himself and the health authority while he was in hospital had continued after discharge, so that a common law duty of care was owed to continue his treatment. The question whether a common law duty existed in parallel with the authority's statutory obligations was profoundly influenced by the surrounding statutory framework. The statutory duty to provide after-care was different in nature from that of a doctor and a patient whom he was treating. The appeal would be allowed on that ground also.

– Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER
NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Swiss deal prompts frenzy of bank bid speculation

Swiss banking giants UBS and SBC are to form the world's second largest bank in a multi-billion pound merger, with the loss of 3,000 jobs in London alone. The City is already speculating about the next victims of the 'merger mania' affecting the financial services sector. *Lea Paterson* reports.

Following a week of feverish speculation, the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) and the Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) confirmed yesterday that they planned to merge. About 3,000 of the 13,000 worldwide job losses will be in London – more than previously anticipated. "The people most likely to be hit are in equities and corporate finance," commented one analyst.

Under the terms of the deal, UBS will be folded into SBC. The new bank, to be called the United Bank of Switzerland, will be second in terms of asset size only to the Bank of Japan-Mitsubishi (see table), with combined assets of £358bn. It will also be the world's largest money manager, with 1.32 trillion Swiss francs (£555bn) in assets under management.

The link-up was prompted by the desire not to lose out in the ongoing consolidation in world financial services. SBC/UBS said: "Ongoing globalisation and deregulation of the international financial markets, tougher global competition and the resulting world-wide wave of consolidation in the financial services industry have made size an increasingly critical factor."

Marcel Ospel, currently SBC's chief executive and chief executive-designate of the new bank, was keen to dispel any notion that he was out to shut down UBS's London operation. After the merger, the new bank will have a combined London staff of around 3,000, about half the current total. But Mr Ospel stressed that there would be redundancies on both sides. He said: "We will take the best people. It is not a question of going to zero on one side."

Mr Ospel also denied that large chunks of UBS, notably the equities business, were now up for sale. Though he admitted that the bank would consider serious offers, he said: "It [the sale of parts of UBS] is not part of the integrated strategy we have on the table today." UBS's equities division has been linked with a variety of potential bidders, including US investment bank JP Morgan.

Recruitment specialists yesterday advised worried UBS and SBC employees not to panic. Peter Newton, director of the LNI Group, an IT and recruitment consultancy, said: "The labour market is relatively buoyant at the moment, and these are both top-tier investment banks, with a high calibre of people."

But further, widely anticipated, consolidation in the financial services sector could lead to "blood on the streets". Mr Newton warned: "If we see more mergers or more bank failures.... it would become a buyer's market."

UBS/SBC said yesterday it was "conscious of its social responsibility to its staff members and will handle these redundancies as sensitively and fairly as possible". The banks have set aside £2.5bn Swiss francs (£1.05bn) for redundancy costs.

Most analysts yesterday subscribed to the view of UBS/SBC that big was beautiful, but also felt that difficult domestic conditions in over-banked Switzerland lay behind the decision to merge. John Leonrad, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "We see two primary drivers – cost savings in the over-banked Swiss branch banking market, and the search for critical mass in the global investment banking sector."

Switzerland has one bank per 2,000 people – around twice the ratio in the US. Post merger, up to 400 Swiss bank branches will shut. Pieder Signorell, the secretary-general of the Swiss trade union which represents bank staff, described the merger as "complete madness" because of the proposed size of the job cuts.

The UBS/SBC link-up is the latest in a string of "mega-mergers" in the financial services industry. In June, Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter completed their $11bn merger, and last month, Travelers Group completed the $9.3bn takeover of Salomon Brothers. More recently, Merrill Lynch offered £3.1bn for Mercury Asset Management.

Yesterday's news prompted speculation about the next link-up in European banking. Shares in Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank, which are understood to have had informal merger talks, soared. NatWest closed up 58p at 998p. Barclays closed up 27p at 1573p.

Under the terms of the deal, Warburgs, perhaps one of the most distinguished names in British investment banking, will not disappear into the history books. Though the newly formed United Bank of Switzerland will be headquartered in Zurich, investment banking will be run out of London under the name of Warburg Dillon Read. The new bank's institutional asset management division, to be called the Brinson division, will be run from Chicago. Gary Brinson presently heads up SBC's asset management arm and will become boss of UBS's maverick fund manager Tony Dye.

Experts predicted the merger was unlikely to run into regulatory difficulties in Europe, but regulatory hurdles in Switzerland may prove more tricky.

UBS and SBC estimate the merger, once completed, will result in annual cost savings of SFr3-4bn, but that restructuring costs would wipe out their combined profits this financial year. Under the terms of the merger UBS shareholders will hold 60 per cent of the new company.

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The world's largest banks

ranked by assets, £bn

1	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	392.6
2	UBS/SBC	358.8
3	Deutsche Bank	345.4
4	Crédit Agricole	289.3
5	Sumitomo Bank	279.0
6	Industrial & Comm. Bank of China	265.1
7	Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank	263.0
8	Fuji Bank	262.2
9	Sanwa Bank	259.0
10	Sakura Bank	256.2
11	HSBC Holdings	243.5
12	Credit Suisse Group	235.9
13	Dresdner Bank	215.5
14	Banque Nationale de Paris	215.4
15	ABN Amro	206.9
16	Société Générale	206.1
17	Chase Manhattan Corp	203.7
18	Industrial Bank of Japan	198.5
19	Barclays Bank	191.4
20	National Westminster Bank	190.7

Source: The Banker. Pro forma figures

Easy access: Bank customers could soon be able to use any cash point in the country — Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Barclays set to link up with other cashpoints

Barclays Bank is poised to follow the Royal Bank of Scotland by striking a deal with other banks and building societies allowing its customers to withdraw money from all but a handful of the UK's 22,000 cashpoint machines. *Andrew Yates* reports on a banking revolution which is likely to open up the network to every account holder in the country.

Tired, weighed down with shopping and out of money you finally find a cash point machine, only to discover that it doesn't take your card and you face a long walk to the other end of the high street to get the money you need to get home. An all too familiar story, but one that is set to become a thing of the past. Huge demand from customers is forcing Britain's banks to allow account holders to use any cash machine they want.

Top executives at Barclays are due to meet shortly to discuss plans to do just that. Sources say Barclays is likely to go ahead with the move in the wake of Royal Bank of Scotland's initiative, which caught the industry on the hop.

Link, the building society cash point network, confirmed that it was in talks with Barclays and the other banks that do not currently use its network about a tie-up. It is unclear whether Barclays will charge customers for using Link machines. NatWest, which recently teamed up with Link, charges customers 60p for each withdrawal.

If Barclays does open up its network Midland Bank and Lloyds TSB, the other high street banking giants, will almost certainly have to fall into line.

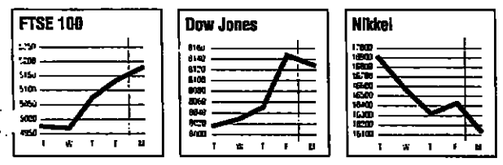
The creation of a unified banking network is only a matter of time according to industry experts. Harry Hay, the man behind Royal Bank's new initiative, believes other banks are bound to follow. "This gives us a distinct competitive edge. I can't see the others standing back for long."

The changes will prompt a revolution in the services on offer, according to Ian Buxton, a consultant at NCR, which makes more four in every five UK cash points. He believes that customers could soon be able to order foreign currency, arrange a loan or even find out how much they would be allowed to borrow to buy a house simply by popping their card in a machine as banks desperately try to hold on to their customers by adding new facilities.

Intense competition among UK banks saw them develop their own cash point networks, a situation almost unique in Europe. Now pressure from customers and demand for more machines in places such as railway stations and petrol forecourts has forced the main banks to reconsider.

The creation of one network will prompt a huge industry shake-up. Mr Hay predicts that private companies could end up running machines for the banks. However, as in America, customers could well end up paying for the privilege.

STOCK MARKETS

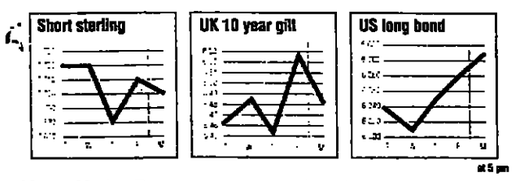


*Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5187.40	44.50	0.87	5367.30	3882.70	3.39
FTSE 250	4781.00	29.70	0.63	4963.80	4347.30	3.37
FTSE 350	2489.30	20.30	0.82	2570.50	1935.70	3.39
FTSE All Share	2428.34	19.01	0.79	2507.68	1946.17	3.39
FTSE SmallCap	2304.30	7.80	0.34	2407.40	2127.50	3.40
FTSE Fledgling	1251.60	3.10	0.25	1346.50	1203.20	3.39
FTSE AIM	978.30	2.40	0.25	1138.00	965.90	1.10
Dow Jones	8128.99	-20.89	-0.26	8299.03	6236.05	1.68
Nikkei	16131.57	-292.91	-1.78	20910.79	14966.13	0.95
Hang Seng	11722.94	195.34	1.70	16820.31	8775.88	3.62
Dax	4223.36	53.28	1.28	4459.89	2797.54	1.74

INTEREST RATES



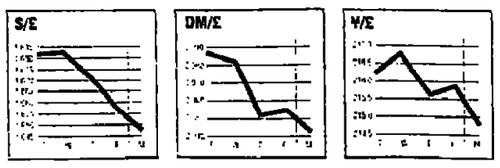
at 5 pm

Money Market Rates					Bond Yields			
Index	3 month	1 yr chg	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	1 yr chg	Long bond	1 yr chg
UK	7.73	1.32	7.89	0.93	6.48	-1.16	6.40	-1.30
US	5.94	0.39	6.09	0.29	5.93	-0.25	6.11	-0.35
Japan	0.73	0.26	0.73	0.14	1.81	-0.83	2.40	-0.85
Germany	3.76	0.52	4.09	0.80	5.38	-0.39	5.93	-0.83

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
Flextech Com	79.50	6.50	8.90	Yule Catto & Co	274.50	-32.00	-10.44
Select Appmnts	651.00	50.00	8.32	GenAccidentPLC	1060.00	-70.00	-6.19
Eng China Clays	285.50	20.00	7.53	Blue Circle Inds	328.50	-21.50	-6.14
Hardy Oil & Gas	279.00	18.00	6.90	Biocompatibles	630.00	-25.00	-3.82

CURRENCIES



Pound	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	Dollar	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6474	-1.05c	1.6477	Sterling	0.6070	+0.38p	0.6069
D-Mark	2.9429	-1.36pf	2.5660	D-Mark	1.7863	+0.30pf	1.5555
Yen	214.79	+0.90	156.94	Yen	130.38	++0.28	113.24
$ index	104.30	-0.60	92.00	$ index	108.40	+0.50	97.70

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next Rlse
Brent Oil ($)	18.09	0.14	24.96	GDP	112.90	3.80	109.7	Jan
Gold ($)	287.75	-0.50	368.20	RPI	159.50	3.7	153.81	Nov
Silver ($)	5.43	0.12	4.89	Base Rates	7.25	6.00		

www.bloomberg.com — source: Bloomberg

BT to get the go-ahead to take full control of Cellnet

The Department of Trade and Industry is poised to give British Telecom the go-ahead to take full control of Cellnet, the UK's second largest mobile phone network in which it has a 60 per cent stake. But as *Chris Godsmark*, Business Correspondent, reports, BT's current intentions towards Cellnet could be more cautious than in previous years.

Since its launch alongside arch-rival Vodafone in 1985, Cellnet has been owned by BT and Securicor, which has a 40 per cent stake in the mobile operator. A previous attempt by BT to buy out Securicor in 1995 was blocked by Michael Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, on competition grounds.

Sources close to the DTI said officials had reconsidered the ownership structure of Cellnet and now saw no objections to BT owning the entire network. The department is thought to have changed its view of competition in the UK mobile market since 1995, with the growth of the two all-digital networks, One 2 One and Orange.

Last night Barbara Roche, the minister responsible for telecoms, declined to comment on Cellnet. The existing share structure is enshrined in Cellnet's operating licence, which could not be changed without the consent of the Secretary of state.

The DTI has been informally advised by Oftel, the telecoms watchdog, that it would not oppose the move by BT. Don Cruickshank, the telephones regulator, is thought to have lobbied against the move two years ago, at the height of his battles with BT over market dominance. However, Mr Cruickshank now takes a much more optimistic view of UK competition, with Orange and One 2 One this year accounting for well over half the growth in mobile customers.

He has struck a much more conciliatory tone with BT this year and in a recent speech predicted the group's overall share of the UK market would drop to 50 per cent by 2000. Oftel's latest forecast said BT would control 70 per cent of domestic phone lines by the same date, down from more than 90 per cent today.

The timing of a DTI announcement, which could come early in the new year, would depend on BT's strategy towards Cellnet. Though BT has made no secret of its long-term aim of integrating its fixed phone services with a mobile offering from Cellnet, privately the company has played down an early approach.

In February Sir Peter Bonfield, BT chief executive, said the group would only buy Cellnet in "a good financial deal". Analysts yesterday put a valuation of about £4bn on Cellnet, putting a £1.6bn price tag on Securicor's 40 per cent stake.

Another consideration could be the continuing concern over Cellnet's trading prospects, after a disappointing year in which its growth rate has slowed sharply. By the end of September it had 2.84 million subscribers, below Vodafone's 3.1 million, but its share of overall market growth has slumped this year.

BT has already moved to strengthen its grip over Cellnet's management, appointing Ray Smith, its consumer products manager, as managing director, following the abrupt resignation this year of Howard Ford.

Separately yesterday it emerged that Orange, the newest of the four mobile operators, has claimed victory over Vodafone in the battle to build the biggest network.

Orange now has 3,350 base stations which receive and transmit signals, compared with about 3,200 for Vodafone. The network roll-out is the fruit of Orange's £800m investment programme over the next year.

Dow Jones to merge television channel with CNBC

Dow Jones and CNBC are today expected to announce a merger of their TV operations in Europe and Asia. The move, which has been in the pipeline for some time, will see European Business News and CNBC Europe, the 24-hour business TV channels, fusing into a single entity.

Dow Jones, owner of the *Wall Street Journal*, has a 70 per cent stake in EBN. Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, has the remaining shareholding. Flextech is to retain its interest, but as a passive investor with no further funding obligations. Flextech said in August that it planned to save £4m a year by discontinuing its investment in EBN. Dow Jones also owns Asia Business News, which is likely to form part of the new entity.

Both CNBC Europe and EBN are understood to make big losses. Some elements of the Bancroft family, which controls Dow Jones, have reportedly expressed concern at the resources soaked up by the group's international TV business. EBN, which launched two years ago, features programmes such as *Your Money*, a personal finance show; and *Media Report*, a media news bulletin. The channel broadcasts in English and German, with a half-hour programme three times a week in French.

CNBC Europe set up a year later than EBN, and runs programmes like *European Money Wheel* and *FT Business Tonight*. Financial Times Television (FT-TV) recently laid off more than 50 staff in anticipation of the loss of its daily programming contract with CNBC Europe. EBN is expected to replace FT-TV's programmes.

– Cathy Newman

UK, Germany and France back defence consolidation

The British, French and German governments will today throw their weight behind a three-way consolidation of their defence industries to enable Europe to compete with the handful of giant military suppliers emerging in the US. *Michael Harrison* reports.

Industry and defence ministers from the three countries will urge their arms manufacturers to restructure in what could be the prelude to the creation of a pan-European defence grouping.

Although there will be no announcements of any mergers between the main players in each country, the governments are expected to say that they would be fully supportive of any such moves to rationalise and strengthen Europe's defence sector.

Ministers are also expected to point to the progress the civil aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie is making in restructuring itself as a possible model for what could happen in defence.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, will issue a joint statement in London supporting further cross-border defence mergers, but stressing that the onus is very much on the industries themselves to put together deals. Mr Robertson recently told a seminar of defence manufacturers at the MoD that the choice was "consolidate or die".

British Aerospace (BAe), the country's leading defence company, has long been pressing for the creation of a pan-European defence and aerospace group encompassing everything from civil aircraft and helicopters to missiles, weapon systems and fighter aircraft. Last month it acquired Siemens Defence Electronics in partnership with Daimler-Benz of Germany. It also has a joint missiles venture in France with Matra, part of the Lagardere group.

GEC, which owns the defence electronics business Marconi, has also been in the forefront of companies pressing for further rationalisation. Both BAe and GEC were unsuccessful in bidding for Thomson CSF, prompting speculation that the French were reluctant to take part in a European-wide restructuring.

However, the French Defence Minister, Alain Richard, said in Paris yesterday that the three main Airbus partners – Britain, France and Germany – could put their defence interests together in the next two to three years. This could then form the focal point for a second phase of consolidation involving Spain, Italy and Sweden.

The four Airbus partners are BAe, Aerospatiale, Daimler-Benz and Casa of Spain. They are already collaborating on the Future Large Aircraft programme, a military transporter, while BAe and Daimler are partners in the Eurofighter project.

Analysts have speculated that BAe may ultimately take over Daimler's defence interests and then bring other manufacturers such as Saab into a wider alliance. There remains uncertainty as to what form a combined Europe-wide defence group would take. There might be friction over its ownership, with Mr Richard suggesting that the French government would retain a stake of up to 40 per cent should BAe, Aerospatiale and Daimler merge.

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Government rules out launch aid for new Airbus jet

The Government has ruled out providing British Aerospace with £120m in launch aid towards the development of a new long-range Airbus jet.

An announcement about the decision is imminent although it is still not clear whether ministers will sweeten the pill by agreeing to slow down the rate of launch aid repayments on earlier Airbus programmes.

The four Airbus partners yesterday formally launched the $2.9bn (£1.76bn) programme to build the A340-500/600 series, a 375 seat aircraft which will compete with the Boeing 747 jumbo jet.

BAe, which has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus and makes the wings, said it had given the three other members of the consortium a commitment that it would fund its share of the development costs. These are in the region of £360m.

The company also indicated that if government support was not forthcoming it would seek to have some of the work carried out by risk and revenue sharing partners overseas. "We would hold discussions with suppliers and industrial partners to see if all or part of the launch costs could be offset in the event that government funds are not forthcoming," said a spokesman.

Airbus has launch orders for more than 100 of the new A340 aircraft worth $13bn from at least seven airlines. Among the customers are Virgin Atlantic, Lufthansa, Air Canada, Egyptair and Eva Airlines of Taiwan. Rolls-Royce has won engine orders worth $4bn from the launch customers for a new version of its Trent engine which is being developed with £200m of government launch aid.

– Michael Harrison

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

CRT: At a glance

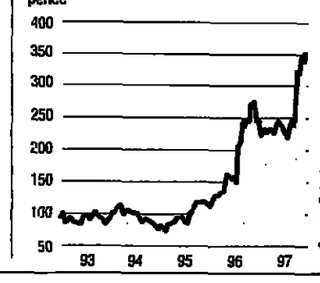
Market value: £508m, share price 355p (+12p)

Trading record	Full year to 30 April 1995	1996	1997	Half year to 31 October 96/97	97/98
Turnover (£m)	72.8	103.3	134.3	55.5	119.3
Pre-tax profits (£m)	5.97	6.52	12.06	3.37	6.57
Earnings per share (p)	6.30	5.70	6.86	2.40	3.07
Dividends per share (p)	3.75	4.1	4.3	1.0	1.025

Staff employed
1996-97

	1997-98	1996-97	% change
IT services	850	200	-
General services	1,300	1,175	-
Total	2,200	1,400	-
Contractors/ temps on assignment	5,750	3,575	+60.8%
Permanent placements	726	374	+194.1%

Share price



CRT recruits Wolffolins for new look

That CRT is being rebranded by Wolffolins, the company that dreamt up Diageo, the ghastly new name for Guinness/Grand Metropolitan, may make investors in the IT recruiter sweaty. After all, not everything in black and white makes sense. But Karl Chapman, chief executive of the fast-growing training and recruitment group, insists that CRT's new identity, to be unveiled next May, will go down a treat.

Gathering CRT's many brands under one logo will be more marketable to customers rapidly shrinking the number of their staff suppliers to a few, choice names, he says. Mr Chapman is worth listening to. He floated CRT in 1989 capitalised at £400,000 and worth 40p a share. Today it is valued at over £500m after yesterday's 12p rise to 355p on half-year profits more than doubled and 25 per cent like-for-like growth. Not bad for a group which makes 70 per cent of its profits in the second half.

CRT's success lies largely in Mr Chapman's controversial decision to link arms with Michael Milken, jailbird and junk bond dealer, and Oracle, whose KU group bought a controlling stake in CRT last autumn. That gave CRT £109m cash to expand just when the shortage in computer programmers was starting to get serious. With £50m of KU's cash still left and plenty of private UK consultancies to buy, Mr Chapman believes CRT will be a multi-billion pound company within five years. He also plans to take CRT into non-IT areas, though he won't yet say what.

Plans for rapid expansion and diversification warrant caution. While IT recruitment is relatively counter-cyclical, a move into a new area could expose the company to economic swings. A combination of rebranding and a heady period of acquisitions may also strain CRT's open and flexible small company culture. However, CRT does need to build an international presence to service the global needs of its customers.

CRT is likely to fund acquisitions with equity. Another KU investment is possible. However, prices of IT companies are rising and bargains, even in the private sector, must be getting harder to find. Analysts are forecasting £20.4m for the full year. On a heady 36 times, take profits.

Allders shares look like a bargin

It has been a good year for the new, slim-look Allders. Shorn of the duty-free operation sold to Swiss Air last summer, the department store retailer has started to look a simpler and more attractive investment. As a result, the City has begun to re-rate the shares, which have risen from 178p at the beginning of the year to 237p, up 8p yesterday. And on the evidence of yesterday's full-year figures and an upbeat trading statement, the re-rating has a way to go yet.

Operating profits on continuing businesses rose 59 per cent to £18.8m, excluding the exceptional gain from the duty free sale in last year's numbers. Like-for-like sales, which were ahead by 12 per cent in the year, have remained strong in current trading, running 9 per cent higher. With a focus on home furnishings, the strengthening housing market has helped Allders. Its sales of furniture and beds, for example, rose 30 per cent on the year before.

Allders was tripped up in the recession by over-exposure in the South-east, but this has been rectified with the acquisition of eight Owen Owen stores for £23m last year.

Sales densities and margins have increased sharply and there is more to go for. The seven Maples stores acquired from the receivers for £3.8m in September have already been re-branded under the Allders and Allders at Home facias.

In the department stores, Allders wants to increase the penetration of higher margin, own-brand ranges from 7 per cent of group sales to 20 per cent. Its in-house fashion label will be extended to all branches in the spring and a more classic fashion label will follow in the summer.

On forecast profits of £25m, the shares trade on a forward rating of just 11, a huge discount to the sector. Buy.

Yule's bid fails to cheer investors

Yule Catto yesterday emerged as the mystery suitor for Holliday Chemicals, and investors were not impressed. Yule shares plunged more than 10 per cent to 274.5p, dragging down the value of the cash and shares bid to about 229p per Holliday share.

According to Alex Walker, Yule's chief executive, this is a classic case of the City failing to see the strategic merits of a deal. He argues that the speciality chemicals industry is going global. Although there are no obvious cost-cutting benefits – plants will not be closed, huge numbers of people will not be laid off – this deal will give Yule distribution and marketing clout. Its portfolio of polymers, flavours and fragrances will also sit well alongside Holliday's pharmaceutical chemicals like ranitidine, the generic version of Glaxo's Zantac ulcer drug.

Still, at £237m this is a big bite for Yule, which is currently worth £280m. The company has never done an acquisition this size, and there must be doubts over whether the management can handle it. Another worry is the balance sheet. Pro-forma figures for last year show the combined group would have had interest cover of just over four times, though that will be more like five to six times when the deal goes through. Given Holliday shares were worth 119p, just half the current bid price, as recently as February, questions should also be asked about Yule's timing.

With the value of Yule's offer sliding, another bid may emerge. But that is unlikely, and even so a rival suitor would not have to offer much of a premium to the prevailing share price. Investors with Holliday shares should sell them in the market. And with Yule Catto likely to be on probation for at least 12 months, its shareholders should think seriously about putting their money elsewhere for the time being.

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†Average price for internal Lotte.

British Midland set to double profits despite low-cost rivals

British Midland yesterday shrugged off the challenge from the new low-cost, no-frills carriers by predicting that profits would more than double to £15m this year. The airline also confirmed it would start flying from Heathrow to Manchester next year in competition with British Airways and Virgin Trains' 'indifferent' rail service. *Michael Harrison* reports.

The sharp rise in profits this year from £6.1m in 1996 has been achieved despite fierce competition from a number of low-cost airlines on British Midland's domestic and European routes.

Passenger numbers in the first 10 months of the year were up by 7 per cent to 5.1 million and sales were 16 per cent higher at £452m. About £3m of the profits increase was due to the strike over the summer by BA cabin crew.

Sir Michael Bishop, British Midland's chairman, said he had no interest in launching a low-cost airline as BA has done and forecast that half the no-frills airlines now operating could fail.

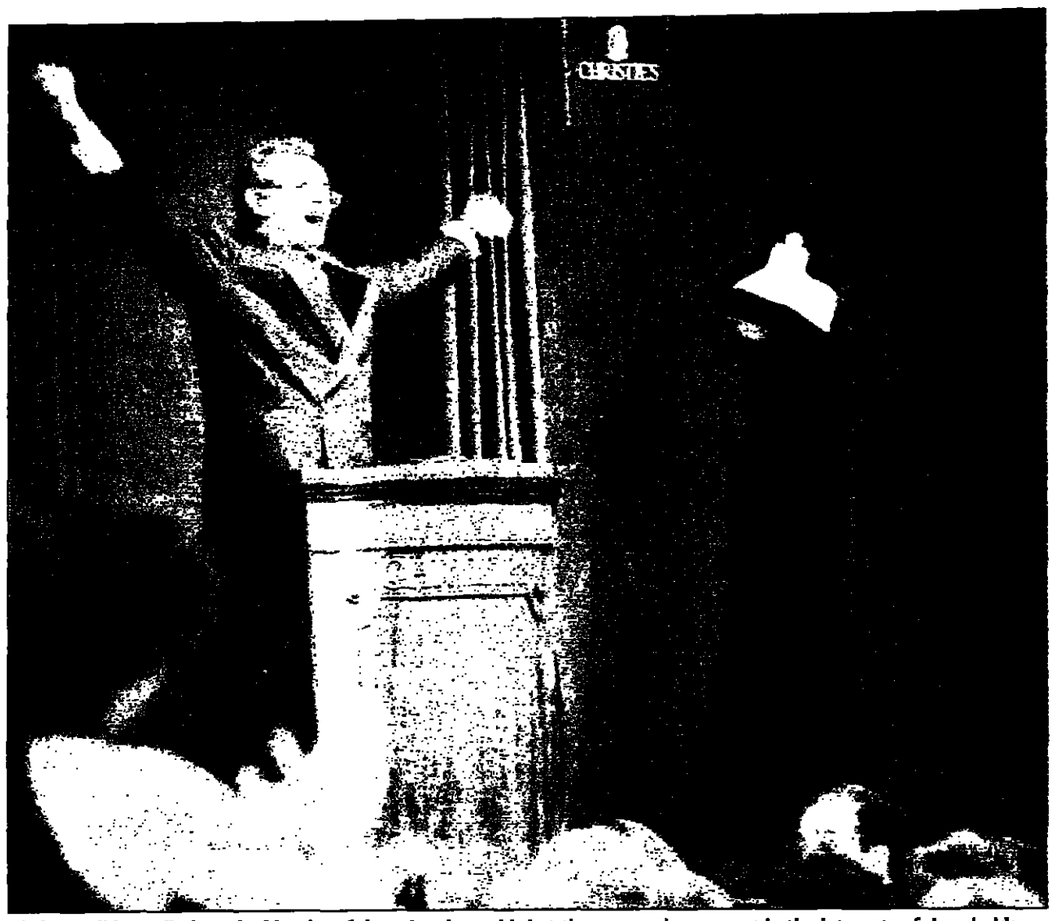
Referring to Ryanair, Easy-Jet, Debonair and Virgin Express, he said: "Only one [Ryanair] is truly financially successful and how many more the market can take with BA starting up will be interesting to see. I think it will follow the US pattern. One or two will make it and the rest will find it difficult to make a meaningful return on their investment."

Sir Michael also criticised the rail service on the West Coast Mainline provided by Richard Branson's Virgin Trains, predicting that British Midland would make big inroads into the London-Manchester market before Virgin had introduced its new fleet of high-speed trains.

British Midland will start flying eight times daily to Manchester from 29 March next year and is promising to undercut BA's business class fare by £20. A three-day business return will cost £178 and economy fares will start at £59.

"We are responding to the strongest possible representations made to us by commerce and industry in the North-west that the present situation of an indifferent rail service and a monopoly air route to London is harming the competitiveness of this important region of the UK," said Sir Michael.

BA flies just under 1 million passengers a year between Heathrow and Manchester but together with other services from Gatwick, Stansted and London City, the airline market is reckoned to be nearer 1.5 million. Including rail passengers, the overall travel market is about 3 million a year. British Midland is aiming to take about 25 per cent of the market in the first year, rising to 35-40 per cent after two years on the route.



Christie's did not disclose the identity of the suitor but said that the proposals were not in the interests of shareholders

Christie's ends talks with 'bidder'

Auction house Christie's International, said yesterday that it had ended talks with a possible bidder, claiming the proposals were not in the best interests of shareholders'. Shares in Christie's closed a penny higher at 250.5p, significantly ahead of their 12-month low of 224.5p last month.

Christie's did not disclose the identity of the bidder. However, some City sources suggested the management might have been interested. Meanwhile, there has been long running speculation that the Bahamas-based investor Joe Lewis, who holds a 29 per cent stake in Christie's, may be interested in making an offer for the remainder. At yesterday's closing price Christie's would be valued at £390m.

Mr Lewis, a reclusive entrepreneur has built a reputation as a canny investor. He bought a 25 per cent stake in Glasgow Rangers, the Scottish football club, earlier this year.

Christie's has had a good run recently. Last year its auction house sales of just over £1bn were higher than Sotheby's for the first time in 40 years. In July it announced half-year sales of £557m, a rise of 15 per cent.

Liberty rebels seek board's surrender

Rebel investors in Liberty, the Regent Street retailer, are trying to persuade the board to concede defeat ahead of the planned emergency general meeting on Thursday.

The founding Stewart-Liberty family and Bryan Myerson, the South African investor, who are proposing to oust the group's chairman Denis Cassidy, say the meeting is no longer necessary as they already have the backing of more than half the shareholders.

The rebels claim the outcome has been decided by the apparent decision of the Merchant Navy Pension fund, which has a 3 per cent stake, either to abstain or vote against the board. Either outcome would be a big setback for the board as the Stewart-Liberty family, together with Mr Myerson, already account for 47 per cent of the votes. The family also claims that other institutions may also abstain or vote in their favour.

Odile Griffith, the family's financial representative said yesterday: "The board must realise we've won. We have been asking to meet with the executive directors for some time and we would like to do so at the first opportunity. Normally these things are not discussed in public meetings or via the press."

Last week the board claimed it had won the support of 34 per cent of shareholders. It said yesterday that it would not concede defeat ahead of the meeting. "Nothing is lost until the votes are cast. The egm is still going ahead."

If the rebels succeed in ousting Mr Cassidy, the company faces the prospect of losing all its advisers, who have threatened to resign and the possible loss of the two executive directors who have said they may find themselves in an untenable position.

The Stewart-Liberty family have been unhappy with Mr Cassidy's management style and plans to spend £43m on the re-development of the flagship Liberty store on London's Regent Street.

The battle has been a messy affair including a spilt between various branches of the Liberty family. While the Stewart-Libertys formed a concert party with Mr Myerson to oust the chairman, three other branches of the family threw their backing behind the board.

– Nigel Cope

Energis shares priced below 300p for début

Shares in Energis, the business telecoms group owned by National Grid, will be priced well below the 300p barrier, valuing the company at around £900m, when they begin trading on the stock market this afternoon.

Executives from the two companies, led by David Jones, the Grid's chief executive, and Mike Grabiner, chief executive of Energis, set the conservative flotation price last night after a marathon marketing effort to potential investors in the UK and US.

The flotation is expected to value each Energis share at about 290p, compared with an anticipated range of between 250p and 325p. Analysts last night suggested the share offer had been three-times oversubscribed after the book-building process, but pointed to stronger interest from the US than the UK.

The Grid is selling 26 per cent of Energis' share capital in a complex arrangement, but could lift this to almost 30 per cent depending on demand. Today's price would raise enough proceeds to pay off a £205m debt from Energis to the parent company.

The likely final float price is a blow to hopes that Energis might float closer to the £960m, top of the valuation range. But it will be hailed by the Grid as a vindication of its original decision to invest £480m in the venture, which wraps telephone wires around power cables.

Energis has been boosted by the Government's U-turn in Brussels last week over the UK system of telecoms competition. Ministers have agreed to adopt an European Union directive which would allow homes in the UK to nominate a rival carrier of choice to BT.

Though Energis is not expected to enter the residential market, it could gain more traffic on its network from other operators after 2000, when the directive comes into force.

– Chris Godsmark

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Allders (F)	490.8m (755.9m)	23.1m (40.4m)	21.7p (17.1p)	5.0p (8.0p)
APT Group (F)	143.8m (126m)	14.0m (10.85m)	38.2p (31.4p)	7.17p (12.1p)
Carclo Engineering (I)	91.7m (74.01m)	8.06m (7.12m)	9.4p (8.1p)	3.44p (3.44p)
CRT Group (I)	119.3m (55.49m)	6.57m (3.37m)	3.07p (2.40p)	1.025p (1.00p)
Celltech (F)	4.3m (13.2m)	12.9m (3.0m)	16.2p (3.5p)	nil (-)
Electronic Data Proc. (F)	12.58m (14.26m)	1.7m (2.5m)	4.50p (6.64p)	2.20p (2.20p)
Fenpel Trading (I)	13.42m (11.54m)	0.340m (0.212m)	1.87p (1.21p)	1.97p (1.21p)
Jarvis (I)	128.3m (119.4m)	12.66m (4.41m)	10.2p (5.5p)	2.5p (1.6p)
Jasmin (I)	3.99m (3.44m)	0.279m (0.0052m)	6.64p (1.29p)	nil (-)
Jordan Group (F)	27.49m (7.57m)	0.506m (0.618m)	3.1p (5.7p)	nil (-)
Marston Thompson (I)	106.5m (91.4m)	15.82m (14.69m)	12.7p (13.17p)	3.0p (2.7p)
Total Systems (I)	2.01m (1.47m)	0.477m (0.186m)	3.19p (1.33p)	0.65p (0.5p)
Widney (F)	38.62m (37.67m)	0.855m (0.778m)	2.98p (3.11p)	2.5p (3.5p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim † EPS is pre-exceptionals *Dividend to be paid as a RID

Late payers face bigger interest penalty

Small businesses have won an important victory in their battle against late payment by convincing the Government to allow them to charge an interest rate of 8 per cent over base rate on unpaid invoices. According to industry sources, the interest rate will be specified in the Government's late payment bill, which will be introduced to Parliament later this week. The Government had originally suggested a rate of 4 per cent over base rate.

Small businesses argued a statutory right to interest should be set sufficiently high to provide an effective deterrent for late payers. To avoid abuse by large companies, the legislation will initially only apply to small businesses pursuing claims from larger firms. After two years, it will be extended to small firms claiming from each other, before being made universal after a further two years.

– Peter Thal Larsen

Hilton wins Cardiff contract

Hilton, the hotel giant, has fought off Sheraton, Inter-Continental and Westin to win a contract to run the first five-star hotel to be built in Cardiff. The new hotel, situated in the heart of the City overlooking Cardiff Castle, will have 200 rooms, the largest ballroom in the area and a health and fitness centre. It will rival Sir Rocco Forte's new luxury hotel development in Cardiff Bay. TBI, the property and airports group which runs Cardiff airport, is developing the new hotel which will open its doors in 1999, in time to house visitors to the Rugby World Cup.

BT price claims allowed

A High Court judge yesterday lifted an injunction preventing BT releasing a report claiming its prices for small business customers were lower than those offered by Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC). BT's research, which covered 200,000 businesses with typical quarterly bills of less than £100, had claimed its overall prices were 4.7 per cent below the lowest prices offered by CWC, a claim its rival had disputed. CWC will tomorrow launch an advertising campaign claiming it has netted 135,000 small business customers, though it will not directly claim that its prices are cheaper.

Jarvis wins rail work

Jarvis, the acquisitive railway maintenance group, has been awarded three contracts by Railtrack worth a maximum £490m over five years. The contracts were awarded by Railtrack to Fastline and Relayfast, the track renewals businesses that Jarvis bought for £55m in July. The announcement came as Jarvis announced a threefold rise in pre-tax profits, to £12.7m from £4.4m, for the six months to September. The shares gained 16.5p to 349p.

Marston expansion on track

Marston, Thompson & Evershed, the brewing and pub group, confirmed it was on track to have 50 Pitcher & Piano outlets trading by the end of 2000, despite having experienced delays in openings over the last six months. Pre-tax profits rose to £15.8m (£14.7m) for the six months to September thanks to a strong performance from the Pitcher and Piano chain and a rise in sales of Pedigree beer which offset falls in other brands.

هكذا من الاصل

OUTLOOK

ON CONSOLIDATION, IN BANKING AND DEFENCE, AND THE STATE OF THE UK STOCK MARKET

Swiss merger is no blueprint for Britain

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, is not quite a Eurosceptic, but he is a leading business opponent of the single currency, which he thinks could prove economically disastrous for Europe. That doesn't seem to have stopped him and his allies marshalling the arguments of monetary union in favour of allowing Barclays to takeover National Westminster Bank. He'll be at it afresh now that Union Bank of Switzerland has agreed merger terms with Swiss Bank Corporation to create what on most measures is the world's second-largest bank. If the Swiss are allowed to do it, why not us, he'll be asking government ministers.

Underlying the creation of this new Swiss banking behemoth is the perceived need to respond to and prepare for greater European union. The single currency ought to create a much more competitive and transparent European market in capital and financial services. This in turn creates further pressure for cost cutting and mergers, both domestic and cross border.

There is a certain irony in the fact that Switzerland is not part of the European Union, nor does it have any intention of joining the single currency. None the less, both banks have extensive operations throughout Europe, including the City, where they have competing investment banking operations. Both banks also fear they might fall prey to a foreign predator if they don't merge with a more friendly home player.

Exactly the same thought process plagues Martin Taylor and his counterparts elsewhere in the UK banking sector. Barclays and NatWest rank only number 19 and 20 in the world in terms of assets, and individually they will amount to little more than half the size of the unimaginatively renamed United Bank of Switzerland. If commodity banking, like other industries, is going to become dominated in the single market by just three to four big players, then what chance do these two and others have of surviving as independents?

This, however, is where the argument rather runs out of legs, for in truth the Swiss bank merger lends only very superficial support to the case for allowing Barclays and NatWest to merge. For a start, Switzerland is a country of just 8 million people. Its most famous exports are the cuckoo clock and the Swiss army knife. Even its skiing industry isn't much cop these days. When things get tough, it adjusts its workforce by throwing out the immigrants.

Switzerland's success as an economy, and that of her banks, is an international one. In Switzerland, it is genuinely possible to make the argument that the creation of national champions in the international arena should be allowed to override all domestic competition concerns. That's one of the reasons why Switzerland has become home to so many leading multinationals and so much international capital.

The same case cannot be made for Britain, with its much larger and more vibrant domestic market place. Barclays and NatWest already have market shares in small business and credit-card lending which might be considered unhealthy for a large economy of 60 million people. Do we really want to give them even greater power? In recent years, both banks have been poor at product innovation and in customer service. In all yesterday's global banking speak and Swiss cost cutting zeal, there was not a single mention of what this merger might do for the customer. We can expect even less if Barclays were to consummate its desires by merging with NatWest.

The Government should put a stop to the fevered imaginings of our leading bankers by making a clear and unambiguous statement that further large scale domestic consolidation in the banking sector will not be tolerated. If there are any bankers who really believe in the Euro-dimension, they should have the courage of their convictions and attempt a cross-border merger. Now why does that possibility seem just so unlikely?

Strategic concerns disarm the French

The need for Europe's defence industries to rationalise is finally beginning to receive some political impetus, even though the structure of what may emerge is still a long way off the radar screen. Today the defence and industry ministers of Britain, France and Germany will present a united front in calling for their respective arms manufacturers to restructure or face annihilation at the hands of American counterparts.

Cheekily, the French nipped in a day early with a sighting shot yesterday from their Defence Minister, Alain Richard. He suggests that the restructuring might be modelled on the corporate makeover now being undertaken at the civil aircraft manufacturer Airbus. Can this possibly be the same country that has resolutely said "non" to any foreign involvement in the restructuring of its own defence sector?

Improbably, this does indeed seem to be the case. The French have become converts to the cause of pan-European defence consolidation having realised that the alternative is to be outflanked by an Anglo/German pincer movement. The joint (though doomed) bid by British Aerospace and Daimler for Thomson-CSF was one early warning. Another was the BAe/Daimler acquisition of Siemens Defence.

With the French now on board, the idea of consolidation moves from the wish list to the drawing board. But given the mix of chauvinism and secrecy that goes with defence procurement, merging Europe's defence industries remains a daunting task.

Hangover due in the new year

Everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. That appears to be the philosophy of Anglo-Saxon financial markets, at any rate. Both the Dow and the FTSE 100 index are heading back towards their record peaks, while the US and UK government bond markets are on an improving trend once more.

Crisis in Asia? So what. Growth will be made to slow a bit, but that's just what the doctor ordered. The financial turmoil of the last two months has made for a healthy correction in the more exuberant markets. Global deflation? It's the fashionable bogeyman for analysts to fret about, but it also still has the mythical status of a monster under the bed. Investors don't expect it to reach out and grab them by the ankles.

Investors on the whole continue to believe inflation will stay low and corporate profits healthy. There are plenty of reasons for optimism but for the dirty realists amongst us, it is all too good to be true. One niggling worry is that the Bank of England thinks it will hit its inflation target only if growth slows sharply next year – and it has a relatively optimistic inflation forecast. That doesn't square with the outlook for profits implied by the rising FTSE 100. Another issue is the monstrous success of the US job-creation machine. It is starting to trigger higher pay growth, and this has not been factored into profits forecasts either.

Something will give, and it is more likely to be rosy growth than low inflation. A straw in the wind was the latest Merrill Lynch survey of fund managers, showing the greatest interest in selling rather than buying equities for well over a year. Watch out for another puncture in the bubble of stock market optimism in the new year.

High-street sales show signs of economy cooling down

The strong pound has tightened its squeeze on manufacturing industry, while the retail spending boom might just be tailing off. The latest evidence suggests that the economy is finally starting to cool down. *Diane Coyle*, Economics Editor, finds few analysts expecting more than one further rise in interest rates.

"Retailers face a white knuckle ride because we will not know until the last minute what Christmas sales will be like," said Andrew Higginson, chairman of the British Retail Consortium's (BRC) economic affairs committee.

The BRC's latest monthly survey, like a similar one from the Confederation of British Industry last week, reported a slowdown in the growth of high street sales last month. Festive spending has got off to a slow start because Christmas Day falls on a Thursday, leaving more last minute shopping opportunities.

Mr Higginson said anecdotal evidence from the first week of December pointed to a pick-up. But he said: "The broader picture is that sales are definitely slowing down."

The survey showed the value of sales up 4.4 per cent in the year to November, only half the previous month's figure, and the weakest since April 1996. Spending is climbing at a slower pace than earlier in the year, no longer fuelled by the windfall of free building society shares.

While neither the BRC nor the CBI survey provides an accurate month-by-month guide to the official figures for retail sales volumes, they join other straws in the wind indicating that higher interest rates are cooling the feverish pace of spending growth.

At the same time, official statistics revealed a surprise fall in manufacturing output last month. "One month's decline does not make a recession, but it does point to a very patchy outlook," said Ciarán Barr, an economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

With new figures confirming the subdued state of industry, and surveys hinting at a slowdown in the high street, many analysts were predicting the Bank of England would be satisfied with one more rise in the cost of borrowing in the new year.

David Hillier at Barclays Capital said: "The new year pay round will still be very important for the Bank's calculations, but the slowdown in growth could be very sharp."

Other experts reckon the slowdown will be less dramatic, but even so, few think interest rates will climb much further.

Manufacturing production fell 0.2 per cent in November, taking the annual growth rate to 1.3 per cent. Total industrial output, which also includes mining and electricity, gas and water supply, also fell 0.2 per cent during November. But its annual growth edged up a fraction to 1.9 per cent.

Engineering, a heavily export-oriented sector, remained the strongest performer. But its output was flat during the month, and the annual growth rate slowed. Other industries exposed to the strong pound, such as textiles and chemicals, were also weaker.

Separate figures for prices manufacturers paid for materials and charged at the factory gate confirmed there was no sign of inflationary pressure in industry thanks to the squeeze from the strong pound. Input prices fell 1.9 per cent in November, driven by sharp falls in oil and food prices, to a level 8.3 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Outlook, this page

S Korea misses out as stocks rebound in the Far East

Almost all the Asian stock markets showed signs of cautious optimism yesterday. But, as *Stephen Vines* reports from Hong Kong, there is no sign of an end to the problems in Seoul.

A more familiar gloom reasserted itself yesterday in South Korea, where the roller-coaster of the Seoul stock market sent shares soaring at the end of last week, with the market falling by almost 5 per cent.

Some of the fall came from profit taking but it was also triggered by news of the failure of the Halla Group, the country's 12th-largest conglomerate, which owns a fork-lift trucks factory in Merthyr Tydfil, south Wales, employing 180 people. Yesterday corporate uncertainty deepened with an announcement by Hyundai, Korea's biggest conglomerate, which said it was cutting investment by 30 per cent and intended to refocus on the export market.

Meanwhile, another conglomerate, Daewoo, announced that it would be taking over the ailing Ssanayong Motor company, a move seen as risky by investors.

The government also entered the takeover mood by seizing control of the troubled Seoulbank, possibly with a view to throwing it into the merger pot with other grief stricken financial institutions.

South Korea is just days away from the signing of the biggest international financial rescue package in history and investors are still not sure whether it will be enough to put the world's 11th largest economy back on its feet.

However, Malaysia's troubled stock market registered its biggest one-day rise in history yesterday, bursting through the gloom of recent months. The blue-chip index gained more than 11 per cent in response to the government's announcement of a tough austerity programme and a decisive cut in economic growth forecasts.

Much of the damage in Malaysian financial markets has been self-inflicted following attacks on international financiers by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. However, his deputy Anwar Ibrahim, who also serves as the Finance Minister and is better liked by the financial community, moved to centre-stage by announcing the austerity plan last Friday. Yesterday Mr Anwar went further to reassure investors, in effect negating Dr Mahathir's calls for outlawing currency speculation. "Malaysia will also continue to practise a market system," Mr Anwar insisted, saying there were "no plans to introduce any controls over foreign exchange".

He announced that government ministers would set an example in the austerity stakes by taking a 10 per cent pay cut. Malaysian economic growth forecasts for next year have been cut from 7 to 4.5 per cent. Government spending will be slashed by 18 per cent and measures have been introduced to tighten credit supply.

The government finally appears to be speaking the same language as investors who have knocked more than half off the value of shares on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange since the beginning of the year.

In Thailand, the Finance Minister, Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda, announced that only two of 58 finance companies whose licences were suspended would be allowed to reopen. Investors responded well to the announcement with a modest rise in share prices.

BREITLING ORBITER 2

CHÂTEAU-D'OEX · SWITZERLAND · WINTER 97/98

Take-off approaches

During their promising first flight aboard the BREITLING ORBITER on January 12 1997, Bertrand Piccard and Wim Verstraeten had very little time to observe the good flight performance of the "rozier" balloon and the smooth operation of the capsule — flawed only by a tiny detail, in the shape of the defective clamp which resulted in the famous kerosene leakage.

Several hours after the subsequent incident-free landing on water, BREITLING decided not to give up after this first attempt. An entirely new rozier balloon, BREITLING ORBITER 2, was thus built, taking account of the lessons gleaned from the first flight. The new craft features a larger envelope to allow for more fuel, itself entirely redesigned to house a third crew member: Andy Elson, the flight engineer involved in the development of BREITLING ORBITER 1.

BERTRAND PICCARD
WIM VERSTRAETEN
ANDY ELSON

Right from the next favorable meteorological window this winter, the crew of the BREITLING ORBITER 2 — which has been gearing up all summer for a new attempt — will be at Château-d'Oex for a second extraordinary take-off, with a view to setting the last great aviation record: a non-stop round-the-world balloon flight at an altitude of 10,000 meters.

January 12, 1997: the BREITLING ORBITER 1 heads for its planned round-the-world trip

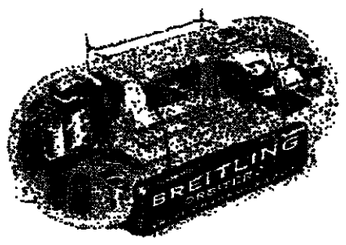
INFO ORBITER 2: Tel. 41 (0) 32 183
Office du Tourisme: Tel. 41 (0) 26 924 25 25
www.breitling-orbiter.ch

Powerful jet streams

While the sun and its effect on helium will provide the upward driving force for the BREITLING ORBITER 2, jet streams will be the determining factor in terms of speed and distance covered. Unknown up until World War II, jet streams — sometimes reaching speeds of between 300 and 400 km/h — now play a significant role in the velocity of transatlantic flights.

The Kevlar and carbon fiber cabin of the BREITLING ORBITER 2 will be exposed during the flight to the extremely low temperatures (between -55°C and -70°C) prevailing at high altitudes.

Sophisticated thermal insulation and a kerosene-burning heating system will maintain the temperature on board at around 18°C to 20°C.



Closely linked to the world of aviation since the early days of "heavier than air" flight, down through the decades BREITLING has consistently produced increasingly sophisticated wrist-worn instruments for pilots. BREITLING is extremely proud to be a part of this new non-stop round-the-world balloon attempt and wishes a successful flight to Bertrand, Wim and Andy.

EMERGENCY

Strapped to the wrist of the crew of the BREITLING ORBITER 2 will be an exceptional instrument watch, equipped with an emergency microtransmitter. In its civil aviation version, the EMERGENCY broadcasts on the 121.5 MHz aircraft distress frequency and complements the ELT- type beacons also on board.

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هكذا من الأصل

TI Group stages a crucial rally as it struggles to stay in Footsie

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

TI Group was engaged in a rear-guard action to preserve its cherished Footsie membership. The shares rose 27p to 527p, adding a crucial £130,000 to its capitalisation and, just possibly, offering the sort of incentive to help the engineer avoid the dreaded drop.

The Footsie steering committee is due to meet tomorrow to decide the composition of the blue chip index, which has lost some of its reputation for reflecting the state of the upper end of the stock market since the Stock Exchange introduced its controversial, much criticised order driven trading system in October.

Order book trading in Footsie shares has produced an array of silly prices at the close which have, despite their questionable reliability, been blissfully incorporated into Footsie calculations.

TI, a long established Footsie constituent, had seemed impervious to relegation until early in October. Then its shares, riding at an impressive 690p, began to wilt, with Lehman Brothers suggesting they were overvalued.

Misplaced worries about the impact of sterling's strength on group trading also took their toll. The shares fell to 456.5p last month before staging a much needed rally.

RMC, the building materials group, is the other likely casualty. The shares fell 22p to 913p; they have been as high as 1,125p.

British Energy and Mercury Asset Management are expected to be the replacements. For MAM it will, however, be a short-lived return. The shares, which lost their Footsie status in the last review, are strong following the surprise bid from the Merrill Lynch investment house. The agreed takeover is likely to be completed early next year, prompting the elevation of what is at the time the best performing Footsie reserve.

Diageo, the unlikely moniker for the combined **Grand Metropolitan/Guinness** drinks cocktail, will also create a few problems. Next week Guinness becomes Diageo and GrandMet, in effect, disappears. So the committee could reinstate one of this week's casualties. But it won't. It will again raid the reserves and the then highest placed will become a Footsie constituent. In the meantime GrandMet rose 12.5p to 582p and Guinness 13p to 585p.

As tracker funds which invest in Footsie stocks continued to try and anticipate the committee moves, Footsie had another festive session, gaining 44.5 points to 5,187.4. At one time it was up 80.6.

Christmas has, in effect, come early for the market this year. Normally the festive cheer becomes pronounced in the second half of December. However yesterday's advance lifted this month's already heady upsurge to more than 350.

Financials again led the charge. The huge Swiss banking merger, which is bound to cost up to 3,000 City jobs, inspired money shares, with **National Westminster Bank**, now the target for all seasons, gaining 58p to 998p. A strike by **Barclays**, up 27p to 1,573p, is regarded in some quarters as inevitable. Both banks have jettisoned their investment banking operations and, it could be argued, now need each other as never before.

Lloyds TSB, 25.5p firmer at 785.5p, is regarded as the natural predator for **Norwich Union**, 10p up at 390p. Other financials in the money included Royal Bank of Scotland and Woolwich.

Blue Circle Industries, the cement group, fell 21.5p to 328.5p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson downgraded, and last week's profit warning lowered **BTR** a further 3.5p to 179p.

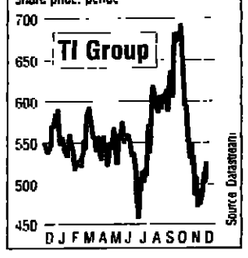
Profit warnings hit publisher **Quarto** 32p to 69.5p and marketing and plastic group **Princedale** 4.5p to 18p.

Christies International, the auctioneer, decided to announce the end of takeover talks which the market was unaware had started. The shares rose 1p to 249.5p. **Lonrho**, up 4p to 93p, confirmed it may bid for JCL the South African mining group. **Telewest Communications** gained 6.5p to 79.5p on reports of a US West assault.

First Leisure Corporation hardened 2p to 271p as Charterhouse Tilney drew attention to its takeover vulnerability. "Sooner rather than later the company's future will be resolved and it is still in management's hands to turn fortunes around. End game or a recovery stock? Investors should profit from either," say analysts Andrew Burnett and Melanie Sharp.

Share Spotlight

share price, pence



TAKING STOCK

Allied Leisure is taking a 23 per cent interest in Ofex-traded Sanctuary Leisure. The stake is part of a £2.3m sale of six bowling centres to Sanctuary, which is also paying £900,000 on completion and £600,000 in stages. Allied softened 0.5p to 32.5p. Sanctuary held at 30.5p. The company has two night clubs and two American pool bars. It made profits of £200,000 in its last financial year.

Interest is building in Merchant Retail, which takes in the Perfume Shops and a chain of department stores. The shares rose 3.25p to a 35.75p peak. Year's profits of around £2.3m (£1.8m) are expected.

Market Link Publishing arrived on AIM. Placed at 50p the shares closed at 55p. The flotation raised £3.1m.

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Source: Bloomberg

Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics.

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Seaq volume: 709.4m trades 60,370

Gilts index 100.39 +0.43

Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes

at 5:00pm

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Billiton PLC	33.06m	BTR PLC	13.68m	Smithkline Beech	9.63m	Royal & Sun Alli	7.73m
Brit Steel	25.75m	Shell Transp-Reg	11.57m	Natl Westminster	8.84m	EMI Group PLC	7.38m
Centrica PLC	21.05m	Overseas Inv Tst	8.80m	Lloyds TSB	8.70m	Norwich Union	6.50m
London Intl Grp	17.31m	Vodafone Group	10.48m	Thistle Hotels	8.28m	Halifax PLC	6.21m
Safeway PLC	14.60m	Wiggins Group	10.13m	Reuters Hldgs	8.04m	Brit Petroleum	5.75m

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open	5142.9	11:00	5205.3	Up 62.4	14:00 5208.3 Up 65.4
9:00	5206.9	Up 64.0	12:00	5222.7	Up 79.8 15:00 5203.3 Up 60.4
10:00	5200.3	Up 57.4	13:00	5209.7	Up 66.8 16:00 5198.3 Up 55.4
					Close 5187.4 Up 44.5

Government Securities

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red YldCode
Index-Linked					
106 10	103 28	Tsy 10% 2003	106.02	0.00	3.59 6072
101 09	104 19	Tsy 11% 2.5 01	111.39	0.16	3.49 2566
111 13	108 28	Tsy 11% 2.5 03	110.47	0.22	3.36 3867
123 09	117 14	Tsy 14% 4.375 04	123.50	0.09	3.28 6472
204 28	189 47	Tsy 9% 2.0%	204.59	0.38	3.27 2537
186 44	170 22	Tsy 10% 2.5 09	186.16	0.47	3.22 2591
194 97	175 94	Tsy 11% 2.5 11	194.63	0.50	3.18 3263
162.01	144.47	Tsy 11% 3.5 13	161.89	0.47	3.16 3140
159 84	147 06	Tsy 11% 2.5 20	159.41	0.00	3.16 3879
157 92	131.94	Tsy 11% 2.5 24	156.46	0.53	3.15 4991
140.30	119 92	Tsy 14% 4.125 30	139.56	0.00	3.14 5857
Investment Trusts					
18 88	31 50	Con 2.5% Perp	38.16	0.00	6.55 6896
38.34	30.88	Tsy 2.5% Perp	37.69	0.34	6.63 1231
41 81	36 60	Tsy 3% Perp	41.37	0.29	6.92 3132
72.85	60 19	Con 3.5% Perp	72.63	1.75	4.82 1906
55 13	44 16	War 3.5% Perp	54.03	0.51	6.48 1100
61 28	49 28	Con 4% Perp	60.00	0.56	6.67 1890
Shorts					
104.34	102.06	Tsy 8% 00	107.88	0.06	6.98 3435
103 88	99.59	Con 9% 01	108.53	0.06	6.97 3097
102.95	100.47	Tsy 10% 01	102.95	0.00	7.30 3636
101.50	99.25	Tsy 7% 02	101.50	0.00	6.85 5287
101 06	100.07	Tsy 7% 02	101 06	0.00	6.72 4901
101 63	101 16	Tsy 8% 03	101.44	0.06	6.81 3096
101.44	100.28	Tsy 8% 09	101.50	0.07	6.96 3941
Mediums					
104.00	101.03	Tsy 7.5% 06	104.00	0.03	7.02 3113
101.88	101.06	Tsy 8% 06	101.88	0.06	7.06 3117
102.06	99.48	Tsy 7.5% 06	102.06	0.00	7.19 3127
101.34	100.00	Tsy 8% 07	101.34	0.06	7.30 3636
102.56	100.00	Tsy 8% 08	102.56	0.00	7.40 3636
101.50	98.25	Tsy 7% 01	101.50	0.00	7.38 3636
101 06	100.07	Tsy 7% 02	101 06	0.00	6.72 4901
101.63	101.16	Tsy 8% 03	101.44	0.06	6.81 3096
101.44	100.28	Tsy 8% 09	101.50	0.07	6.96 3941
Longs					
99.63	86.38	Tsy 7.25% 06	106.44	0.34	6.94 4552
103.69	89.06	Tsy 8.75% 07	121.12	0.16	6.78 1513
116.13	105.19	Tsy 8.5% 07	110.69	0.38	6.55 3895
107.88	96.72	Tsy 7.25% 07	105.63	0.38	6.47 2213
121.75	109.09	Tsy 9% 08	119.75	0.44	6.43 5434
114.66	101.28	Tsy 8% 09	112.50	0.47	6.46 3944
Red					
105.02	Abbey Group	165.50	-	1.6	- 4592
88 54	Amvescap	60.00	-	-	- 5008
524 206	Br Borneo	451.50	+1.00	0.8	58.9 2744
1 1	Bula Res	1.50	-	-	- 0
639 350	Cairn Engy	464.50	-	-	149.8 3643
24 10	Dana Pet	24.00	+0.25	-	neg 3640
70 00	Dragon Oil	70.00	-	-	- 3417
715 557	Enterprise Oil	697.00	+1.00	3.6	23.3 1196
645 432	Expro	578.00	-1.00	1.8	27.3 2375
11.00	Fortune Oil	11.00	-	-	- 3000
279.00	Hardy Oil	279.00	+8.00	0.4	55.8 1084
51.00	Lasmo	51.00	-	-	neg 1085
277.00	LASMO	277.00	+4.00	0.7	52.3 1310
84.75	Oryx	84.75	-0.25	-	neg 1085
71.00	Pennzoil	71.00	-	-	- 2000
56.75	Premier Oil	56.75	+1.25	1.2	12.8 1089
222.00	Ranger Oil	432.50	+7.50	-	- 2523
70.50	Sedfield Res	70.50	-	-	- 4995
133.50	Tullow Oil	133.50	-0.50	-	- 7230
Other Financial					
97.00	-	44	19.0	2057
467.00	+17.00	1.4	25.5	1204
230.00	-	4.6	15.2	2049
696.50	+0.00	3.5	10.2	1141
414.00	-	2.6	24.9	1821
235.00	-	2.3	neg	1365
499.50	-	6.5	17.1	2302
850.00	-	3.3	19.6	1578
34.00	-0.50	0.7	5.3	2397
397.50	-	3.5	3.8	4039
34.00	-	0.7	0.1	2042
397.50	+2.50	4.0	3.4	2287
392.50	-0.50	5.1	13.5	2037
597.00	-	5.7	13.7	2750
264.50	+1.00	4.7	23.4	4059
192.50	+1.00	4.3	14.5	7225
182.50	-1.50	-	-	3880
106.00	-	3.6	18.6	2457
245.00	+0.50	1.7	13.7	3570
127.00	+5.00	5.8	10.8	7396
168.00	+3.00	3.6	26.8	5648
700.00	-4.00	1.7	8.1	5400
56.50	-1.00	6.9	-	4588
2485.00	30.00	1.1	16.8	5614
244.50	+3.50	3.0	25.4	1084
387.50	-	4.0	15.6	8590
49.50	-0.50	3.7	12.7	3538
323.00	-	7.2	-	2879
645.00	-	4.3	13.9	4676
80.50	-	-	-	3609
Paper & Printing					
62.50a	-20.00	-	-	3527
58.50	-7.00	2.5	16.1	3657
171.50	-4.50	5.0	6.0	1269
26 15	-	3.2	9.2	2971
432.50	+2.00	4.5	11.5	1106
155.50	-0.50	2.1	35.1	1695
147.50	-1.50	1.5	48.3	5286
447.50	1.50	5.2	20.5	2226
108.50	-	3.1	13.1	4046
229.50a	+1.00	3.2	14.1	1107
115.00	-	5.4	12.3	3443
99.75	+1.25	0.4	-	2667
85.75	+0.50	-	-	1348
208.50	-	1.0	11.1	6000
52.11	-	1.8	14.1	1287
178.75	+0.50	3.4	41.2	1076
46.33	-	3.0	-	4292
45.20	+0.50	-	-	6976
262.50	+5.50	2.6	-	7186
249.50	-	-	-	3662
Leisure & Hotels					
1235.00	+10.50	1.7	25.1	5757
32.50a	-0.50	3.8	10.8	6996
59.50	-	2.6	23.8	4668
695.00	-5.00	-	neg	3306
69.50	+1.50	12.5	n 1	6000
800.00	-	1.5	79.4	1008
0.06	-	-	neg	1727
30.00	+0.50	2.1	neg	2795
29.00	-	8.6	7.5	5829
150.00	-1.50	6.8	23.8	6301
24.75	-	-	12.8	6051
24.00	-	2.1	-	8806
34.50	-	-	8.6	9485
508.00	+7.50	0.1	-	3012
19.75	-	-	-	9811
38.25	-	-	-	8806
4.50	-	-	neg	0
348.00	-2.00	6.2	neg	1086
45.00	-	3.0	9.6	5890
51.50	-	-	-	3587
195.00	-	1.8	neg	1412
225.50	+2.00	4.9	12.1	3277
159.50	-	3.6	11.5	1987
50.50	-0.50	3.2	14.9	1440
254.00	-	2.0	21.9	1526
92.50	+2.25	4.3	14.7	2012
1.9	-	-	-	6491
23.50	-	-	-	2364
265.00	+6.00	0.6	-	1841
42.50	+2.50	4.9	-	4523
93.00	+3.00	-	-	5523
40.50	+1.00	2.7	-	6034
59.50	+4.00	1.5	-	1697
158.50	-0.50	-	-	1942
108.50	+10.00	1.2	-	2445
128.00	+1.00	2.3	-	2880
145.00	+0.50	2.6	-	5451
173.50	+1.00	4.6	-	2456
146.00a	+2.00	4.2	-	2490
195.50	+2.50	2.9	10.9	2481
166.50	-	16.6	-	6644
192.50	+0.50	0.6	-	7040
54.00	-	-	-	5400
Life Assurance					
1035.00	+10.00	4.0	30.1	1021
522.00	+3.00	2.8	3.7	1036
520.00	+3.50	5.2	14.4	1008
790.00	+10.00	2.9	-	1000
78.00	+10.00	2.9	10.9	7481
149.00	-	16.6	-	6644
425.00	-	7.1	22.8	6000
532.50	-	4.7	3.3	1395
Media					
350.50	-2.00	7.8	14.3	6494
49.75	+0.25	1.0	19.5	6469
161.50	-	-	-	6269
102.50a	-8.00	2.1	23.3	1506
130.00	-	6.3	72.3	1303
2.00	-	6.7	-	0
31.50	-	2.8	18.7	3408
425.00	-	3.4	17.2	4654
460.00	+7.00	1.6	27.6	2002
500.00a	-	3.4	17.2	4654
480.00	+8.00	3.4	41.2	1076
1600.00	+25.00	4.0	17.9	6601
Paper & Printing					
62.50a	-20.00	-	-	3527
58.50	-7.00	2.5	16.1	3657
171.50	-4.50	5.0	6.0	1269
26 15	-	3.2	9.2	2971
432.50	+2.00	4.5	11.5	1106
155.50	-0.50	2.1	35.1	1695
147.50	-1.50	1.5	48.3	5286
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99.75	+1.25	0.4	-	2667
85.75	+0.50	-	-	1348
208.50	-	1.0	11.1	6000
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178.75	+0.50	3.4	41.2	1076
46.33	-	3.0	-	4292
45.20	+0.50	-	-	6976
262.50	+5.50	2.6	-	7186
249.50	-	-	-	3662
Oil Integrated					
965 648	BP	875.50	+8.50	3.2	18.6 1011
1129 898	Burmah Castrol	1080.00a	+30.00	5.6	16.0 1038
492 317	Shell	444.00	+9.00	3.5	20.9 1983
Oil Exploration & Production					
175 102	Abbot Group	165.50	-	1.6	- 4592
88 54	Amvescap	60.00	-	-	- 5008
524 206	Br Borneo	451.50	+1.00	0.8	58.9 2744
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245.00	+0.50	1.7	13.7	3570
127.00	+5.00	5.8	10.8	7396
168.00	+3.00	3.6	26.8	5648
700.00	-4.00	1.7	8.1	5400
56.50	-1.00	6.9	-	4588
2485.00	30.00	1.1	16.8	5614
244.50	+3.50	3.0	25.4	1084
387.50	-	4.0	15.6	8590
49.50	-0.50	3.7	12.7	3538
323.00	-	7.2	-	2879
645.00	-	4.3	13.9	4676
80.50	-	-	-	3609
Retailers, Food					
82.50a	+1.50	2.2	16.3	1003
561.00a	-	2.3	18.2	3507
54.25	-	3.2	0.6	3534
220.00	-	2.8	17.5	4467
37.50a	-	-	-	1401
100.00	+5.00	-	-	2434
945.00	-17.50	2.2	20.5	2226
118.00	+1.00	5.3	9.7	1267
386.00a	+1.50	7.9	11.4	0388
285.50	+5.00	1.0	19.6	1251
40.50	-1.00	9.2	9.9	2722
325.00a	-	5.4	12.1	1079
547.00	-2.50	3.0	23.5	1050
199.00	+2.50	6.4	6.8	1077
125.00	-1.50	2.6	20.4	1056
239.50	+2.00	3.1	19.8	7601
465.00	-	4.8	0.8	1418
Retailers, General					
265.00	-	2.9	16.9	7223
524.00a	-1.00	-	48.4	5532
259.00	-	4.5	24.1	0236
206.00	-	0.7	20.6	0336
881.50	-	3.8	12.2	5720
249.50	+9.00	2.9	25.5	2260
28.50	-	-	neg	2968
549.50a	-4.00	1.9	17.4	5808
45.50	-	1.6	15.2	3669
203.50	-	3.3	-	4008
1005.00a	+8.00	3.4	28.8	1035
33.75	+0.50	2.9	-	3542
93.00	-	5.8	10.1	2449
129.00	+2.50	5.4	16.8	4268
549.00	-1.50	3.9	41.6	1107
193.00	-	-	28.9	1555
26.50	-	2.4	neg	7362
159.50a	-	5.6	17.3	1351
647.50	-	1.6	75.3	2745
280.00	+1.00	2.3	45.0	2431
255.00a	-	4.5	15.2	2808
195.00	-	2.6	20.7	2801
218.00	+1.00	4.9	-	2597
31.25a	+1.50	4.3	13.0	2835
155.50	-2.00	2.0	-	4988
60.00	-	6.2	22.2	1412
103.00	+3.00	3.9	9.7	7788
98.50a	-	2.8	22.5	1449
204.00	+1.00	1.4	43.1	6856
358.50	+2.00	3.2	29.9	1403
112.00a	-2.00	5.8	11.8	0344
71.25	-0.25	4.6	10.5	2033
74.50	-	-	-	3000
186.00	+1.00	1.7	51.2	3672
106.50	-	4.5	12.7	3035
112.00	+0.75	-	neg	1338
Retailers, Food					
82.50a	+1.50	2.2	16.3	1003
561.00a	-	2.3	18.2	3507
54.25	-	3.2	0.6	3534
220.00	-	2.8	17.5	4467
37.50a	-	-	-	1401
100.00	+5.00	-	-	2434
945.00	-17.50	2.2	20.5	2226
118.00	+1.00	5.3	9.7	1267
386.00a	+1.50	7.9	11.4	0388
285.50	+5.00	1.0	19.6	1251
40.50	-1.00	9.2	9.9	2722
325.00a	-	5.4	12.1	1079
547.00	-2.50	3.0	23.5	1050
199.00	+2.50	6.4	6.8	1077
125.00	-1.50	2.6	20.4	1056
239.50	+2.00	3.1	19.8	7601
465.00	-	4.8	0.8	1418
Support Services					
352.50	+0.00	0.5	56.4	5468
87.50	+0.50	8.1	7.9	1859
94.00	-	-	-	3000
349.50	+2.00	-	22.4	1075
155.50	-	6.1	7.4	1064
490.00	-	3.6	21.4	1530
590.50	-	5.0	0.6	6496
691.00	-	-	neg	4723
57.50	+2.50	3.3	27.1	3342
228.50	+2.50	0.7	68.9	5263
18.00a	+0.50	1.6	3.9	1623
140.00	-	0.6	9.5	4714
155.00	-	-	neg	1002
300.00	-	2.3	18.3	3275
76.50	+3.00	3.3	18.8	2970
30.50	-	4.1	6.4	1110
285.50	+27.00	0.8	-	2657
669.00	+15.00	1.2	20.0	6042
577.50	+16.00	-	-	1956
44.50	-	-	neg	4673
785.00	+5.00	-	17.7	7868
845.00	-	1.1	24.5	6872
798.00	+17.00	1.5	32.0	6084
1000.00a	+5.00	0.6	55.7	7551
29.00	-	-	7.0	8737
49.50	-	1.6	10.2	2389
583.50a	+1.00	2.7	0.9	2395
105.50	-	7.8	24.1	0300
1053.50	+21.00	1.1	34.8	0105
395.00	+12.50	-	-	9932
103.50a	-6.00	2.8	21.0	1004
49.00	-	3.7	27.2	7290
291.50a	-1.00	2.8	21.0	1004
425.00	-	4.9	0.8	8852
638.50	+4.50	2.0	69.2	1020
43.00	+0.50	-	226.3	2588
4.50	-	-	-	1002
348.00	-2.00	6.2	neg	1086
45.00	-	3.0	9.6	5890
51.50	-	-	-	3587
195.00	-	1.8	neg	1412
225.50	+2.00	4.9	12.1	3277
159.50	-	3.6	11.5	1987
50.50	-0.50	3.2	14.9	1440
254.00	-	2.0	21.9	1526
92.50	+2.25	4.3	14.7	2012
1.9	-	-	-	6491
23.50	-	-	-	2364
265.00	+6.00	0.6	-	1841
42.50	+2.50	4.9	-	4523
93.00	+3.00	-	-	5523
40.50	+1.00	2.7	-	6034
59.50	+4.00	1.5	-	1697
158.50	-0.50	-	-	1942
108.50	+10.00	1.2	-	2445
128.00	+1.00	2.3	-	2880
145.00	+0.50	2.6	-	5451
173.50	+1.00	4.6	-	2456
146.00a	+2.00	4.2	-	2490
195.50	+2.50	2.9	10.9	2481
166.50	-	16.6	-	6644
192.50	+0.50	0.6	-	7040
54.00	-	-	-	5400
Life Assurance					
1035.00	+10.00	4.0	30.1	1021
522.00	+3.00	2.8	3.7	1036
520.00	+3.50	5.2	14.4	1008
790.00	+10.00	2.9	-	1000
78.00	+10.00	2.9	10.9	7481
149.00	-	16.6	-	6644
425.00	-	7.1	22.8	6000
532.50	-	4.7	3.3	1395
Media					
350.50	-2.00	7.8	14.3	6494
49.75	+0.25	1.0	19.5	6469
161.50	-	-	-	6269
102.50a	-8.00	2.1	23.3	1506
130.00	-	6.3	72.3	1303
2.00	-	6.7	-	0
31.50	-	2.8	18.7	3408
425.00	-	3.4	17.2	4654
460.00	+7.00	1.6	27.6	2002
500.00a	-	3.4	17.2	4654
480.00	+8.00	3.4	41.2	1076
1600.00	+25.00	4.0	17.9	6601
Paper & Printing					
62.50a	-20.00	-	-	3527
58.50	-7.00	2.5	16.1	3657
171.50	-4.50	5.0	6.0	1269
26 15	-	3.2	9.2	2971
432.50	+2.00	4.5	11.5	1106
155.50	-0.50	2.1	35.1	1695
147.50	-1.50	1.5	48.3	5286
447.50	1.50	5.2	20.5	2226
108.50	-	3.1	13.1	4046
229.50a	+1.00	3.2	14.1	1107
115.00	-	5.4	12.3	3443
99.75	+1.25	0.4	-	2667
85.75	+0.50	-	-	1348
208.50	-	1.0	11.1	6000
52.11	-	1.8	14.1	1287
178.75	+0.50	3.4	41.2	1076
46.33	-	3.0	-	4292
45.20	+0.50	-	-	6976
262.50	+5.50	2.6	-	7186
249.50	-	-	-	3662
Oil Integrated					
965 648	BP	875.50	+8.50	3.2	18.6 1011
1129 898	Burmah Castrol	1080.00a	+30.00	5.6	16.0 1038
492 317	Shell	444.00	+9.00	3.5	20.9 1983
Oil Exploration & Production					
175 102	Abbot Group	165.50	-	1.6	- 4592
88 54	Amvescap	60.00	-	-	- 5008
524 206	Br Borneo	451.50	+1.00	0.8	58.9 2744
1 1	Bula Res	1.50	-	-	- 0
639 350	Cairn Engy	464.50	-	-	149.8 3643
24 10	Dana Pet	24.00	+0.25	-	neg 3640
70 00	Dragon Oil	70.00	-	-	- 3417
279.00	Hardy Oil	279.00	+8.00	0.4	55.8 1084
192.50	+1.00	4.3	14.5	7225
182.50	-1.50	-	-	3880
106.00	-	3.6	18.6	2457
245.00	+0.50	1.7	13.7	3570
127.00	+5.00	5.8	10.8	7396
168.00	+3.00	3.6	26.8	5648
700.

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HAMISH MCRAE ON THE LATEST LESSONS FOR BANKS

The financial folklore that cannot be banked on

We are re-learning two old lessons about banking this autumn, and – maybe – learning two new ones.

One of the old lessons is highlighted by the news of the merger yesterday of two of the three big Swiss banks. For anyone who follows banking the fact that there should be three big Swiss banks is part of the folklore. Banks in other countries might merge, be taken over, or even fold – more of that in a moment. But the three big Swiss banks seemed unassailable, symbols of Swiss solidity and competence in international banking.

That view was wrong. It was wrong because anyone who took that view was forgetting that the dominant theme in banking is still one of consolidation. Banking, particularly international banking, is becoming more and more a commodity business, where it is very difficult for any bank to sustain a comparative advantage over the others. As margins become compressed, size matters more and more.

The practical illustration of that is the shedding of labour planned by the Union Bank of Switzerland and the Swiss Bank Corporation: the present joint workforce of 56,000 will be trimmed to 43,000. Those 13,000 people are simply not needed, for the merged bank reckons it can do the same amount of business without them.

Wherever you look in the world a similar process is taking place. Even here in Britain, which has experienced several waves of consolidation, being reasonably big seems to be no sure protection – neither NatWest (itself the product of a merger) nor Barclays seem entirely certain to remain independent entities. At some stage consolidation will stop. That will happen when there is little or no advantage to be gained from further economies of scale. But at the moment the long-term trend remains established.

The second lesson of the autumn comes from a different part of the world, East Asia. This is that banks should not become too close to their clients, particularly their commercial clients.

"Relationship banking", where the bank seeks to have a long-term relationship with its clients, has long been touted as a preferred alternative to "commodity banking". From the bank's point of view, binding in a customer in some kind of long-term relationship ought both to enable it to know more about the customer's business and to earn a higher margin because the customer is not shopping around for the cheapest service. And from the customer's point of view, a long-term relationship should ensure more support if things start going wrong.

There are undoubted advantages in the relationship model, particularly in good times. But – and this is the lesson of the autumn – it carries the most profound dangers when things turn down, for when a bank's customers are under pressure, too close a relationship also threatens the bank.

The East Asian banking model, where banks are bound into commercial empires with cross-holdings, is currently crippling the recovery in Japan, for the high proportion of non-performing loans not only undermines the bank's balance sheet, but it inhibits them from seeking new business. So creditworthy companies are unable to borrow because the banks that might lend to them are too frightened by their weight of bad debt. Of course, in several East Asian countries, cronyism and in some cases fraud have exacerbated the problem. But even without that the model has been shown to be flawed. It will be interesting to see how long it will take for British enthusiasts of the Japanese banking model to acknowledge its evident weaknesses.

Those are the two old lessons. What about the possible new ones? One is that to be a banking name is not necessary to be a bank.

Banks, seen as a brand, have extraordinarily longevity. The two main Scottish banks, Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland, date back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The four main UK clearing banks go back, in various forms, to the last century. The Midland name has survived change of ownership to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Compare that longevity with the brand names in, say, the motor industry. Austin? Morris? Hillman?

But the last year has seen the most serious challenge to banks as brands, and it is happening here in Britain. Suddenly we have new banks – Tesco, Sainsbury, Virgin. The stores groups had been chipping away at the fringes of the financial service business for some time, for example by Marks & Spencer offering unit trusts. But the success of the supermarkets as deposit-takers is something new.

Go back a quarter century and everyone thought that money was different. People might be prepared to buy strange brands of coffee or soft-drinks (though, in fact, the brands there are pretty stable); they might experiment with new stores: but banking was banking. So while there would be competition within banking and competition for deposits from other established financial institutions such as the building societies, no new banking brands could be established.

The first challenge to that came from First Direct, where Midland, at that stage still independent, deliberately did not use its existing brand name for this new style of banking, but developed another.

The word "direct" then became a generic term for financial services sold and handled over the phone. But people did know that Midland was behind the venture, which gave them a certain confidence. With hindsight I suspect that, had the venture been called Midland Direct, growth would have been even faster and the banks might have retained their independence.

The second challenge came from other established brands, the retailers. This was not entirely new – there was, after all, already a Harrods Bank – but the idea that one sort of brand can be transferred to an entirely different type of venture really would have seemed astounding 25 years ago.

So the first of these two new lessons is that brands in finance are transferable. The Virgin brand, based on a record company and only a generation old, is evidently as good as bank brands which have taken centuries to build.

And the second new lesson? Well, it is not really a lesson, more an observation on the East Asian banking crisis. It is that for personal business at least, banking brand names do not seem to cross national boundaries very well. I should think most of us are quite glad that we do not have an account with a Korean or a Japanese bank.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK

A sombre start to the week, with the sad news yesterday that **Sir Peter Hunt**, chairman and managing director for the last 10 years of Britain's biggest property company, Land Securities, has died unexpectedly following a recent operation.

Sir Peter, 64, was due to make way for **Ian Henderson** as managing director next July, while staying on as chairman. No decision on a new chairman has yet been made by the company, which was said by a spokesman to be shocked by the news.

Sir Peter was still training as a chartered surveyor when he answered a query from Lord Samuel, the entrepreneur who set up Land Securities after the war. Lord Samuel immediately recognised his potential and recruited him to the company. Sir Peter was made managing director 20 years ago.

Lord Samuel built the group on the slogan "location, location, location", investing heavily in prime sites after the war. Sir Peter gained a reputation for preserving that vision by restricting Land Securities largely to UK prime sites. Colleagues say his other key achievements were to identify retail warehouses as a growth market, and to choose the right time to launch development programmes, once in the mid-1980s and again two years ago. He will be missed.

Celltech's research and development director **David Bloxham** will be leaving the pharmaceuticals company early next year to become chief executive of Therexsys, an unquoted drugs company. Mr Bloxham joined Celltech in 1990 as head of R&D and more recently has had the additional role of chief operating officer.

Celltech said it expects to announce a replacement R&D director in the near future. In the meantime, **Geoffrey Yarranton**, director of research, and **Ursula Ney**, director of development, will report to the chief executive, **Peter Fellner**.

The City Circle, the restaurant at 10 Basinghall Street famous for its scantily clad serving wenches, has been bought by a bunch of South Africans from **Richard Reynolds**, who ran the establishment for 27 years. Sources close to the eatery tell me that Mr Reynolds was assured of a continuing role at the restaurant, but was eased out last Friday. I've never been there myself (honest).

Companies that specialise in decontaminating nuclear power stations rarely come top of the City's beauty parades, especially if they are listed on AIM. But Jordec has a keen following among specialist AIM trusts run by venture capitalists like Close Brothers, for instance.

Jordec's chief executive is **John Foley**, a 41-year-old former barrister who gave up the law to become a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse. He then turned businessman by joining Foseco, then moved to Triplex Lloyd before climbing aboard Baris Holdings, which in turn became Jordec last year.

Mr Foley is also non-executive chairman of Belfast City Beat, the radio station and Ulster's answer to Capital Gold. He played cricket at school against Imran Khan, and played for Worcestershire seconds in the 1970s. Jordec has transformed itself from a loss-making provider of ultra-clean environments for the chemicals industries to a specialist operator working hand in glove with the Atomic Energy Authority and British Energy.

A link with Corpex Technologies last month gave the company access to technology that could extend the working lives of the UK's 23 nuclear power stations. Last year the group turned a loss into a small profit but, according to the brokers Williams de Broe, Jordec could double profits to one million pounds this year.

Horace Clarkson, the shipping and insurance broker, said yesterday that managing director **Hugh McCoy**, who is also chairman of H Clarkson & Co, has decided to retire a year earlier than planned. He will leave the company next February on his 59th birthday "to pursue other business activities" and is due to assume the chairmanship of the Baltic Exchange next June. Gary Weston, a director of Horace Clarkson and deputy chairman of H Clarkson & Co, will succeed him as chairman.

Hot news just in from Enschede in the Netherlands: the Dutch brewing company Koninklijke Grolsch has decided not to launch its special anniversary beer, Finale, after checks showed that the 1.5-litre bottles are liable to break. According to a spokesman, the decision will cost Grolsch "tens of millions of guilders". Grolsch intends to seek damages from the glass manufacturer.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	10000			06067	06076	06093	03392
Australia	24563	24536	24483	14902	14907	14916	08332
Austria	20741	20707	20643	12583	12581	12577	70355
Belgium	60863	60644	60280	36925	36845	36727	20646
Canada	23427	23352	23231	14213	14188	14154	07947
Denmark	11227	11189	11127	68110	67978	67792	38082
ECU	14880	14837	14765	11078	11093	11116	08144
Finland	89067	88725	88194	54036	53906	53734	30213
France	9866	9831	9771	59855	59728	59529	33467
Germany	29480	29379	29201	17885	17850	17791	10000
Greece	46247	46444	46921	28058	28218	28588	15688
Hong Kong	12754	12743	12781	77375	77421	77870	43263
Ireland	11340	11328	11298	14535	14590	14528	08127
Italy	28852	28829	28753	17510	17515	17518	97903
Japan	21515	21378	21139	13053	12989	12880	72933
Malaysia	60822	60699	60721	36900	36878	36995	20632
Mexico	13358			81040			45312
Netherlands	33218	33100	32900	20153	20111	20045	11268
New Zealand	27534	27481	27370	05987	16696	16676	03347
Norway	11925	11882	11813	72350	72188	71970	40453
Portugal	30106	30039	29911	18265	18250	18224	10212
Saudi Arabia	61824	61749	61672	37508	37517	37539	20972
Singapore	26628	26643	26672	16155	16188	16250	09033
South Africa	80239	80869	81816	48880	49133	49848	27218
Spain	24921	24865	24755	15120	15107	15082	84537
Sweden	12862	12827	12771	78030	77929	77808	43629
Switzerland	24007	23881	23666	14565	14509	14419	08144
US	16483			10000			05591

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	16483	10000	Oman	06346	03850
Brazil	18322	11116	Pakistan	72525	44000
China	13648	82800	Philippines	57690	35000
Czech Rep	58035	35209	Poland	58646	35580
Egypt	55961	33963	Qatar	60006	36405
Ghana	36955	22420	Russia	97695	59270
Hungary	33284	20181	South Korea	21565	130830
India	64201	38950	Taiwan	52358	31765
Indonesia	67910	41200	Thailand	67951	41225
Kuwait	05025	03049	Turkey	327649	198780
Nigeria	12708	77300	UAE	60534	36725

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	725%	Discount	250%	Prime		Discount	050%
France		Lombard	450%	Discount	500%	Belgium	
Intervention	330%	Canada		Fed Funds	550%	Discount	275%
Italy		Prime	–	Spain		Central	330%
Discount	625%	Discount	400%	10-d Repo	500%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	100%
SpAdvance	330%	Discount	350%	Repo(Ave)	410%	Lombard	313%

Bond Yields

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	–	000	496	-002	533	004	568	004	621	005
Belgium	364	-001	411	000	425	000	501	-003	554	-004
Canada	373	002	459	001	481	001	533	002	569	002
ECU	454	-001	471	000	462	-003	512	-004	551	-006
France	000	000	352	000	442	-001	493	000	535	-004
Germany	378	000	409	000	427	000	501	-003	538	-004
Italy	571	004	534	002	518	001	543	003	588	005
Japan	029	009	041	001	049	-001	108	-001	181	-001
N'lands	373	-002	409	001	433	-002	500	-002	534	-005
Spain	480	000	460	000	471	000	529	000	574	000
Sweden	440	-002	503	001	525	002	596	001	619	-001
S'land	178	003	199	002	175	-004	267	-001	349	-002
UK	700	000	799	-002	702	-004	673	-004	648	-005
US	516	000	525	000	561	001	568	000	593	001

Money Market Rates

	Overnight Bid	Overnight Offer	1 week Bid	1 week Offer	1 month Bid	1 month Offer	3 months Bid	3 months Offer	6 months Bid	6 months Offer	1 year Bid	1 year Offer
Treasury Bills					720	700	720	700				
LIBOR												
Domestic Depos	706	719	719	731	741	747	763	769	772	778	776	784
Eurosterling Deps	725	739	725	738	753	759	766	772	772	779	778	784
Eligible Bank Bills					725	715	735	725	745	735		
Sterling CDs					747	740	765	758	774	765	775	767
Eurodollar CDs					592		586		566			
ECU Deposits					431	444	438	450	447	459		

www.bloomberg.com Source Bloomberg

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Dec-97	11922	11913	11894	3465	34727
German Bund	Dec-97	10433	10435	10426	24321	20566
US Long Bond	Dec-97	11881		-	-	..
Italian Bond	Dec-97	11405	_	..	-	25537
Japan Govt Bd	Dec-97	13045	13049	13040	2447	-
3 Mth Sterling	Dec-97	9230	9232	9229	29408	152161
	Mar-98	9226	9228	9224	29751	126894
3 Mth Euromark	Dec-97	9623	9624	9622	15524	258788
	Mar-98	9609	9609	9607	34295	330280
3 Mth Eurolira	Dec-97	9396	9397	9394	2405	100516
	Mar-98	9473	9473	9470	6281	127628
3 Mth Euroyen	Dec-97	9920	9921	9921	200	-
3 Mth Euroswiss	Dec-97	9814	9817	9812	7054	54143
	Mar-98	9808	9814	9806	6964	52705
3 Mth ECU	Dec-97	9547	9547	9546	182	8676
	Mar-96	9542	9542	9542	80	7113
FTSE 100	Dec-97	521800	524500	518500	7793	55834

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement Price: 518740

Series	Mar Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Dec Call	Put	Jan Call	Put	Feb Call	Put
5100	332	23	172	22	157	35	224	88	294	126
5150	301	23	191	21	119	49	189	106	262	145
5200	269	22	210	21	86	69	159	127	229	165
5250	237	22	230	20	58	94	128	147	195	187

Energy

* at 5:30pm

Brent Crude($/barrel) IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	Gas oil($/tonne) IPE	Close	Chg	Vol	WTI Crude($/barrel) NYM	Last*	Chg	Products($/tonne) Spot CIF NW Eur	
Jan	1920	009	8754	Dec	16525	075	6379	Dec	1816	[illegible]	Gasoline 95	18700
Feb	1834	008	6094	Jan	16650	025	4987	Jan	1894	012	Naphtha	17950
Mar	1824	003	2094	Feb	16625	025	1890	Feb	1910	012	Gasoil	16350
								Mar	1922	008	Fuel Oil (3.5%s)	9100

Commodity Indices

Goldman Sachs at 5:30pm

	Base date	Last	Chg	%chg	31 Dec	%chgYTD
Index	1970=100	13582	-004	-002	21526	-1368
Agricultural	1970=100	24117	059	025	23123	430
Energy	1983=100	6740	004	006	8586	-2150
Ind Metals	1977=100	15984	012	008	16879	-530
Livestock	1970=100	17898	-111	-062	19103	-631
Prec Metals	1973=100	38470	-125	-032	46354	-1701

Industrial Metals

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chg
Aluminium HG	15485	15495	-600	15685	1569	-9	653425	-3050
Aluminium Alloy	1417	1422	-800	1437	1440	-5	42840	-200
Copper A	1768	1770	-3050	1799	1801	-29	345025	-625
Lead	5145	5155	-1100	532	5325	-105	115875	-225
Nickel	5935	5945	-3000	6030	6035	-25	66348	228
Tin	5730	5740	-8000	5570	5575	-85	8290	-50
Zinc	1093	1094	-1900	1117	1118	-18	498300	-1450

Precious Metals

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Year's chg
Platinum	36050	-300	1225	Platinum	23030	-135	005	Krugrands	28625	-8195
Palladium	20800	100	9100	Palladium	12590	150	5430	Sovs	6728	
Silver	543	012	054	Silver	328	003	001	Nobles	37005	
Gold	26750	010	-8200					Maple Leaf	30025	-8070

Agricultural

* at 5:30pm

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Lge Potatoes	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	ATA	$.25k kg
Dec97	103800	Nov97	167200	Nov97	8325	Nov97	6060	Nov97	72600
Mar98	106800	Jan98	174800	Jan98	7525	Mar98	9750	Apr98	70800
May98	108600	Mar98	174200	Mar98	7795	Apr98	11200	Jun98	71200
Vol:	5949	Vol:	2389	Vol:	231	Vol:	27	Vol:	231640
White Sugar*		**Freight**		**Wheat**		**Corn***		**Soya Beans***	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10/idx pt	LIFFE	£/tonne	CBOT	Cents/bshl	CBOT	$/5r bshl
Dec97	31120	Nov97	117100	Nov97	8530	Dec97	27200	Nov97	2300
Mar98	31010	Dec97	125500	Jan98	8200	Mar98	28225	Jan98	2800
May98	31510	Jan98	129000	Mar98	8400	May98	28825	Mar98	3020
Vol:	609	Vol:	28	Vol:	179	Vol:	227680	Vol:	51

Other Softs

at 5:30pm

Feb	Live Cattle	(CME) $/40k lb	6800	Dec	White Maize	(SAF) $/100 mt	87500
Feb	Pork Bellies	(CME) $/40k lb	5575	Dec	Rubber	(TCM) Y/ 5k kg	8330
Jan	Orange Juice	(CTN) $/15k lb	6040	Mar	Cotton	(CTN) $/50k lb	6850
Dec	Milk	(CSC) $/50k lb	1220	Dec	Crude Palm	(KLC) $/25 tn	178000
Mar	Oats	(CBT) $/5k bsh	16075	Jan	Soya Oil	(CBT) $/60k lb	2476
Jan	Flax	(WCE) $/20 tn	.	Dec	Woollen Yarn	(TCM) $/500kg	125500

Latest Unit Trust Prices

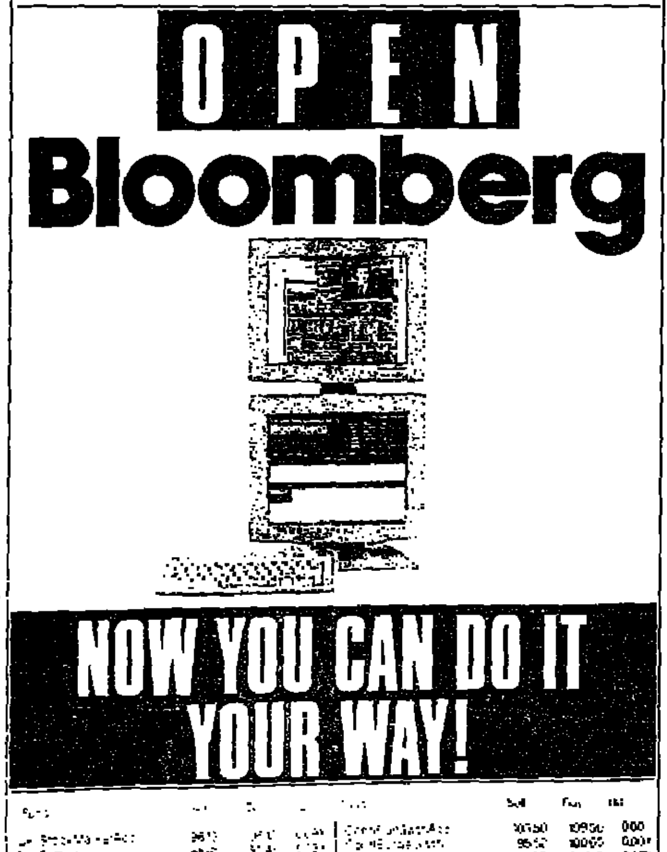
Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
AIB Govett Trust Ltd			
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR			
Tel: 0171 378 7979			
American Strategy	25006	26744	000
Cash	955	960	575
European Strategy	14161	15145	000
FTSE Mid 250 Index	9858	10542	211
Geared UK Index	2367	2499	575
Greater China	22047	23579	000
International Growth	16867	18060	000
Japan General	10370	10980	000X
Monthly Income	4216	4505	850X
Pacific Strategy	11614	12421	000
UK Star	470	496	535
UK Eq Safeguard	11089	11859	247
UK Index	1762	1860	535
UK Safeguard	14210	15142	000
UK Smaller Cos	7948	8499	049X
US Index	2167	2494	400
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers			
AXA Equity & Law Hse,			
Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1GD			
Tel: 01203 553231			
Balanced Acc	7338	7806	236
Balanced Inc	6714	7142	236
Brit Equit	11680	12420	234
BritishFundsAcc	14850	15580	446
BritishFundsInc	9398	9957	446
Europe	44620	47460	059
Gilt&Fixed Int	9585	10120	568
Gilt&FixedIntAcc	22870	24260	568
Global Opps	11030	11730	030
Higher Inc Acc	107600	114600	476
Higher Inc Inc	55340	58890	476
Japan	3345	3558	000
North America	43280	46020	000
Pacific Basin	30200	32120	208
UK Gwth Acc	58850	62800	248
UK Gwth Inc	37190	39560	248
Barclays Funds Limited			
8 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BJ			
Customer Help Desk: 0181 522 4000			
Balanced Trusts			
Income Funds			
Cash	10100	10130	661
Cash Acc	13120	13120	661
Income	71480	76250	392
Income Builder	6184	6726	453
International Inc	8861	9149	139
Balanced Funds			
500	[illegible]	[illegible]	227
Europe	10690	11340	220X
General	40570	43430	172
Property	26380	28200	582X
Trustee	28640	30470	153
Growth Funds UK			
Capital	18230	19460	189
FTSE 100	13280	14070	173X
Growth Acc	57750	61440	149
Smlr Cos Acc	7298	7783	226
Smlr Cos Inc	6058	6482	226
Growth Funds - Overseas			
America	28720	30500	003X
AmericanRecovery	16500	17310	000
Japan Acc	9428	9961	000
Japan Inc	9319	9646	000
JapanSmlrCos	4247	4489	000

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
Worldwide	21600	23000	082
Barclays Investment Portfolios (1200)F			
High Income Inc	5019	5024	710
Managed Income	4865	5029	710
Mgd Gwth&Income	4749	5038	450
Managed Growth	4745	5061	050
Barclays Global Investors Funds			
PO Box 14828 London E15 4UG			
Brokerline: 0800 731 2443			
Income Funds			
Distribution	12770	13840	518X
Equity Income	17150	18300	425
Gilt&FixedIntInc	6209	6429	715X
InternatlFixedInt	9949	10290	517
InternatlFixdIntAcc	12620	13050	517
Growth Funds - UK			
Gwth & Inc Acc	115300	122800	169
Gwth & Inc Inc	53260	56560	169X
UK Growth	52180	55690	179
UK Growth Acc	52180	55690	179
Growth Funds - Overseas			
European Growth	23850	25240	070
Europn Gwth Acc	26130	27640	070
FarEastnGrowth	12730	13510	115X
FarEastGwthAcc	21710	23090	105
Baring Fund Managers Ltd			
PO Box 834, 199 Bishopsgate,			
London EC2M 3YS			
Enq: 0171 762 8450, Dealing: 0171 214 1004			
American Gwth	18670	19700	000X
AmericanSmlrCos	17140	18220	000X
Eastern	19230	20640	033X
Equity Income	12530	13350	420X
EuropeanGwth	[illegible]	55550	080X
EuropeanSelect	42140	44950	080X
German Gwth	10480	11110	052X
Global Bond	7357	7750	480X
Global Growth	17520	18390	240X
Income Plus	5413	5430	780
Japan Growth	11120	11820	[illegible]
Japan Select	7321	8357	[illegible]
Korea	2430	2576	[illegible]
Portfolio Acc	33570	35740	[illegible]
Portfolio Inc	17390	18500	200X
Select Managers	[illegible]	[illegible]	120X
UK Growth	13560	14250	180X
UK Gwth & Inc	8390	9465	470X
UK Smr Cos	[illegible]	12590	120X
Charity Fund	[illegible]	7495	[illegible]
OverseasSelect			
Friends Provident Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
United Kingdom Hse, Castle St,			
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3SH			
Enq: 01722 715834, Dealing: 01722 715835			
Amer Smr Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
American Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asian Gwth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asian Gwth Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Australian	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Australian Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cash Gwth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equity Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equity Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	280
[illegible]			

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
EthicUKEqExtn	12670	12730	253
Eurpn Gwth Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	000
Eurpn Gwth Distrb	[illegible]	[illegible]	000
Income	[illegible]	7809	420
Income Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	420
Inst UK Smr Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	152
InstUKSmrCosAcc	[illegible]	[illegible]	152
International Bond	5707	6039	430
Intl Bond Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	430
Intl Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	100
Intl Growth Acc	6412	6839	000
Jap Smlr Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	000
Monthly Distrb	[illegible]	8245	471
MonthlyDistrbAcc	[illegible]	[illegible]	471
OpnOpGthIncAcc	[illegible]	[illegible]	360
OpnOpGwth	[illegible]	[illegible]	009
OpnOpGwthInc	[illegible]	[illegible]	360
PacificBasinAcc	[illegible]	[illegible]	010
SterlingDepositAcc	[illegible]	[illegible]	612
SterlingDepositInc	[illegible]	[illegible]	612
Stewardship	[illegible]	[illegible]	138
Stewardship Acc	[illegible]	65640	138
Stewardship Inc	[illegible]	5594	512
Stewardship IncAcc	[illegible]	[illegible]	512
Stewardship N Am	[illegible]	[illegible]	100
Stewardship N Am Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	100
Tokyo Acc	[illegible]	6962	000
Tokyo Inc	6462	6850	000
UK Focus	[illegible]	5896	135
UK Focus Acc	6656	[illegible]	135
UK Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	139
UK Growth Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	139
HSBC Unit Trust Management Ltd			
6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7QP			
Advisers0800 181890, Investors0800 289505			
Dealing: 0171 955 5055			
Benton Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brit Growth	9325	[illegible]	[illegible]
Benton Fund initial charge 5 per cent			
Brit Growth initial charge 5.25 per cent			
Hill Samuel Exempt Umbrella Trust			
European Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
North Amer Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Acc	[illegible]	5430	[illegible]
UK Equity Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UKSmllCosAcc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Legal & General (UT Managers) Ltd			
Knox Court, 10 Fitzalan Place			
Cardiff CF2 1TL			
Enq: 01222 448472, Dealing: 01222 683512			
http:www.legal-and-general.co.uk			
Cash	8254	8254	655X
Equity Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equity Distr	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equity Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
European	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro Index	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Far Eastern	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fixed Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Global Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan Index	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japanese	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nth American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Basin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
Pacific Index	3476	3476	288X
UK Index	9680	9690	251X
UK Index Acc	9799	9799	251X
UK Recovery	13820	13820	150X
UK Smll Cos	18020	18020	109

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
Mountbatten House, Chatham			
Kent, ME4 4JF			
Tel: 01634 836000, Dealing: 01634 834313			
Balanced	51110	54380	181X
Balanced Acc	[illegible]	132360	181



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Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd			

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
[illegible]	10350	10950	000
[illegible]	9552	10095	000X
[illegible]	36100	38410	337X
[illegible]	103900	110600	337
[illegible]	16020	17050	188
[illegible]	[illegible]	18262	195

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
German Gwth	17390	18310	000
GermanGwthAcc	18240	19200	000
Gwth Pfolio	79090	83060	034
Gwth Pfolio Acc	82550	87510	034
High Inc	10810	11210	681X
High Inc Acc	12320	12770	681
Inc Pfolio	68070	72420	372
Inc Pfolio Acc	79780	84680	376
Income	70450	74950	295
Income Acc	207100	220400	295
Japan Gwth	7445	7925	000
Japan Gwth Acc	7475	7953	000
MasterTrust	7742	8237	116
MasterTrust Acc	9097	9678	116
Millennium	11350	12080	203
NAmSmCo&RecAcc	23830	25360	000
NAmSmCo&RecInc	23350	24850	000
NthAmer&Gen	32130	34160	000
NthAmer&GenAcc	37160	39540	000
Pacific Basin	17670	18800	056
PacificBasinAcc	18840	20050	056
Premier Exempt	20160	21020	260
Safety First	11690	12310	141
SmlrCos&Rcvry	54330	57830	203X
SmlrCos&RecAcc	77140	81210	203
UK Eqty Inc	16430	17480	356
UK Equity Gwth	20660	21980	232
UK Growth	13260	14110	154
UK Growth Acc	16820	18010	154
W wideGwth	40230	42800	054X
W wideGwthAcc	59550	63360	054
Newton Fund Managers Ltd			
2 Festival Square, Edinburgh EH3 9SU			
Clients 0800 614330, Broker 0500 660000,			
Dealing, 0500 440000			
internet: information@newton.co.uk			
American Gwth Acc	6629	7045	000
American Gwth Inc	6672	6981	000
Bridge	11672	12419	227
Cash Acc	7290	7290	679
Cash Inc	5027	5027	679
Distributor	12802	13619	235
European	7520	7999	000
Foundation	9913	10630	156
General	26738	28444	098
General Acc	27307	29060	098
Growth Acc	17488	18602	159
Growth Inc	16722	17789	159
Higher Inc Acc	5358	5700	479
Higher Income	4227	4496	479
Income	34849	37073	277
Intl Bond	13155	13994	498
Intl Growth	4471	4756	000
Japan	2382	2534	000
Oriental	11804	12557	017
Oriental Acc	12237	13019	017
Northern Rock Unit Trusts Ltd			
Bulman House, Regent Centre Gosforth			
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3NG:			
Tel: (0191) 285 2555			
High Income	5896	6027	539
UK Growth	13420	14200	256
Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd			
51-59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex, IG1 2DL			
IFA Dealing 0345 835505			
Client Dealing 0345 835500			
Cash Haven	10123	10173	628X

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
Cash Haven Acc	12500	12561	629
Distribution Acc	14120	14630	460
Distribution Inc	11998	12433	460
Equity	109789	115733	164
Equity Inc	10479	11148	379X
European	34579	36833	053
Global Growth	11810	12564	152
High Income	10609	11286	453X
Intl Growth	23434	24930	037
Intl Small Cos	9623	10246	094
Japanese	11460	11876	000
Managed	4955	5135	186
Managed Inc	5002	5172	733X
Nth American	31590	32705	068X
Pacific Mkts	8665	9187	156
Premier Inc	5018	5322	555
Small Cos	11657	12401	156X
Special Sits	15178	16147	185
UK Growth	18440	19617	163
Save & Prosper Securities Ltd			
16-22 Western Rd, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB			
Clients: 0800 829 100			
Brokerline: 0800 727 770			
Amer Smlr Cos	17770	18900	000
Cash	14310	14310	654
China Dragon	6641	7065	021
Commodity	11260	11980	000
Emerg Mkts	3763	4003	050
Eurpn Growth	30130	32050	000X
Eurpn Smlr Cos	7765	8261	000X
Extra Income	6705	6948	504X
Far Eastern Gwth	7585	8069	000
FarEastnSmlCos	3579	3807	090
Financial Secs	43080	45830	126X
Gold & Exploratn	3437	3656	000
Growth	55640	59820	144
High Income	5257	5257	626X
Intl Bond	15640	16520	484
ITU	26130	27800	077
Japan Growth	11530	12230	000
Japan Smlr Cos	9345	9902	000
Korea	1655	1781	000X
Latin America	5034	5355	025
Masterfund	7273	7310	093X
New Europe	5012	(Mid)	000
Premier Eqty Inc	45100	47980	376
PremierEqtyGwth	21270	22630	113
S E Asia Gwth	3431	3650	022
Southern Africa	4552	4843	118
UK & O'seas	32260	34740	068
UK Equity Inc	32770	34860	275
UK EquityGwth&Inc	38130	40560	266
UK Smlr Cos	6530	6947	020
US Growth	29130	31190	000
Scottish Amicable Pension Funds			
PO Box 14962 Craigforth Stirling, FK9 4ZD			
01786 448844			
95%SafeguardPens	11180	(Mid)	000
100%SafeguardPens	10350	(Mid)	000
WealthPresvtnCap	11090	(Mid)	000
WealthPresvtnInc	440	(Mid)	000
Singer & Friedlander Inv Funds Ltd			
21 New Street, London EC2M 4HR			
Tel: 0171 867 8777, Dealing: 0171 626 6226			
***SIB Recognised Dublin OEIC Funds**			
American Growth	17401	(Mid)	000
Aztec	8271	(Mid)	000

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
Corporate Income	10395	(Mid)	000
Deutschmark Res	10247	(Mid)	000
European	19603	(Mid)	000
Football Fund	9325	(Mid)	000
Global Bond	8834	(Mid)	000
Investment Trust	11985	(Mid)	000
Reserve Roll Up Fund	10111	(Mid)	000
Samurai	4136	(Mid)	000
Sterling Reserve	10205	(Mid)	000
Tai Pan	8407	(Mid)	000
UK Emerg Leaders	9706	(Mid)	000
UK Equity Income	10817	(Mid)	000
UK Growth	12634	(Mid)	000
Singer & Friedlander Unit Mgrs Ltd			
Common	11200	11810	100X
Global Gwth PEP	8206	8717	100X
InvestmtTrustPfolio	6230	6683	220X
Lugano	9634	10420	150X
Managed Ex	150765	157536	220X
Preferred Inc	11100	11800	610X
Smll Cos	28580	30400	090X
Standard Life Unit Trusts			
30 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH1 2DH			
Tel: 0800 33 33 53			
GlobalAdvntge	5173	5199	106
GlobalAdvntgeAcc	5678	5708	106
IncAdvntgeAcc	5314	5341	353
IncAdvntgeInc	4370	4392	353X
Managed Acc	7104	7531	174
Premier Inc	5257	5441	656X
Premier Inc Acc	6041	6253	656
UKEqtyGwthAcc	12760	13000	138
UKEqtyHighInc Inc	5125	5433	356
UKEqtyHighIncAcc	7080	7507	356
Virgin Direct			
Discovery House, Whiting Road, Norwich			
Tel: 0345 95 95 95			
Email: mail@virgin-direct.co.uk			
Pen Growth Acc	12725	12725	000
Pen Inc Protector	11197	11197	000
PFS Income	11030	11030	623
PFS UKIndexTracking	16282	16232	230

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X - ex-dividend
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A more extensive list of unit trusts and managed funds is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

CRICKET

Hooper's lone stand becomes a lost cause

West Indies 216 and 198-7
Pakistan 417

Pakistan are poised for a clean sweep of the series against the West Indies despite a century from Carl Hooper on the third day of the third and final Test in Karachi yesterday.

The tourists were 198 for 7 in their second innings when bad light stopped play 15 overs early. They still need another three runs to avoid their third innings defeat in a row after an eventful day in which 16 wickets fell.

The Pakistan and Surrey off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq added four more wickets to his five in the first innings to push his team close to their third win of the series.

Resuming on a commanding 327 for 1 Pakistan lost nine wickets for 90 runs to be all out for 417 – a first-innings lead of 201. Mervyn Dillon finished with 5 for 111, his best figures in Tests, while the West Indies captain Courtney Walsh took 4 for 74.

Ijaz Ahmed, who was 127 overnight, fell to Dillon after making 151 with 15 fours and a six and the young fast bowler then took three wickets in 36 balls to reduce Pakistan to 359 for 4, dismissing Saeed Anwar (15), Inzamam-ul-Haq (4) and Mohammad Wasim (12).

Walsh then burst through the lower order and reached 350 Test wickets when he trapped Moin Khan lbw for five. He became the seventh bowler to reach the milestone, passing it in his 96th Test.

Waqar Younis soon had West Indies on the defensive in their second innings, taking two wickets in six balls. He trapped Stuart Williams for 12 and forced the other opener Sherwin Campbell to edge to the slips after making five.

Hooper joined Brian Lara at that point and they took the visitors to 100 for 2 at tea, Hooper reaching 50 off 48 balls with eight fours and a six.

The 31-year-old then went on to record the third-fastest century for the West Indies off just 80 balls, blasting 15 fours and three sixes for his eighth hundred in 67 Tests and his third against Pakistan.

Hooper added 121 runs for the third wicket with Lara, who made a resolute 37 before being caught at silly point off Saqlain.

That completed a poor series for the new Warwickshire captain, who scored 129 runs in six innings.

Hooper was then bowled by Wasim for 106, made off 90 balls in 136 minutes, to end a stand of 42 with Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who was caught behind off Saqlain for 16.

Saqlain then dismissed Roland Holder and David Williams in successive overs to leave the West Indies three tail-enders' wickets away from a humiliating 3-0 series defeat.

Third day; West Indies won toss

WEST INDIES – First Innings 216 (S L Campbell 50; Saqlain Mushtaq 5-54).

PAKISTAN – First Innings
(Overnight: 327 for 1)
Ijaz Ahmad c D Williams b Dillon 151
Saeed Anwar c D Williams b Dillon 15
Inzamam-ul-Haq lbw b Dillon 4
Mohammad Wasim lbw b Dillon 12
†Moin Khan lbw b Walsh 5
Azhar Mahmood not out 26
*Wasim Akram lbw b Walsh 0
Saqlain Mushtaq c Lara b Walsh 0
Mushtaq Ahmed b Walsh 1
Waqar Younis c S C Williams b Dillon 12
Extras (b3, lb9, nb17, w2) 31
Total (118.4 overs) 417
Fall (cont): 2-328, 3-333, 4-359, 5-374, 6-389, 7-390, 8-390, 9-396.
Bowling: Walsh 23-2-74-4 (nb2); Rose 12-1-44-0 (nb1); Dillon 29.4-4-111-5; Bishop 15-0-68-0 (nb11, w1); Hooper 32-10-74-0 (nb3); Chanderpaul 7-0-34-1 (w1).

WEST INDIES – Second Innings
S L Campbell c Inzamamul b Waqar 5
S C Williams lbw b Waqar 12
B C Lara c Mohammad b Saqlain 37
C L Hooper b Wasim 106
S Chanderpaul c Moin b Saqlain 16
R I C Holder c Aamir b Saqlain 5
†D Williams b Saqlain 2
I R Bishop not out 5
F A Rose not out 0
Extras (b7, nb3) 10
Total (for 7) 198
Fall: 1-14 2-19 3-140 4-182 5-186 6-191 7-193.
To bat: *C A Walsh, M Dillon.
Bowling: Wasim Akram 14-7-31-1 (nb2); Waqar Younis 6-0-31-2; Azhar Mahmood 3-0-32-0 (nb1); Mushtaq Ahmed 8-0-72-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 16-7-25-4.
Umpires: C J Mitchley (SA) and Salim Badar (Pak).

Yorkshire move over ground

Yorkshire yesterday made the first steps towards resolving their dispute with Headingley's owners by suggesting both parties return to the negotiating table.

Secret talks broke up last week with Paul Caddick, the chairman of Leeds Cricket Football and Athletic Club, claiming Yorkshire had walked out in protest at a planned press release.

But at a press conference yesterday, the Yorkshire chief executive, Chris Hassell, stressed: "We would be quite happy to begin negotiations again with Mr Caddick.

"We have received a number of ultimatums and threats which we are not too pleased about. We we have been trying to negotiate in an acceptable manner."

Hassell claimed Caddick's proposals to re-develop Headingley "lacked substance" and were "no more than a model proposal".

Yorkshire claim they entered talks with Caddick to discuss the viability of Headingley's redevelopment and insist their proposed move to a purpose-built stadium in Wakefield was still "very much alive".

Caddick welcomed Hassell's invitation to re-open talks, saying: "We do not intend to open a public debate on the details of our negotiations."

Pakistan's Mushtaq Ahmed is bowled by Courtney Walsh as the West Indies, facing their third successive innings defeat, claimed nine wickets for 90 runs yesterday Photograph: AFP

Stewart has faith in England's approach

Alec Stewart has sufficient experience of one-day cricket and, whatever happens in Sharjah this week, he insists England must not be deflected from their long-term aims.

"The selectors are absolutely right to have picked the 14 they have for this Sharjah tournament," Stewart said.

"Darren Gough would have been in it, and Mike Atherton was also unavailable, but otherwise it is what we at the moment consider to be our best one-day squad.

"I think that the preparation and planning for the 1999 World Cup must start now, and with the players we have, plus home advantage, I believe we have a great chance of winning.

A one-day international veteran with 90 caps, Stewart is still upset by England's poor performance in the last World Cup because of a lack of planning. However, he can also remember the 1992 World Cup, when England came close to beating Pakistan in the final.

"In the last World Cup we played poorly but we also learned nothing from the seven one-day games we had in South Africa as preparation for it. We obviously had to reassess things after that."

Stewart sees no problem in England bringing just five of their Test squad to Sharjah. And he also sees Atherton's situation as being quite clear. "Test cricket and one-day cricket are completely different," he said. "I know that Athers will be looking to captain England and open the batting in the one-day series against West Indies this winter. Adam Hollioake, though, has done well so far but only time will tell whether he is up to the task or whether Athers can get back into the one-day side.

"Things have worked very well here. The squad has come together noticeably. Adam is a very upfront person, who captains by instinct. He is prepared to try things and that's what you need in one-day cricket."

England have two days of practice before the first match of the four-nations tournament against India on Thursday. Stewart said: "India, Pakistan and the West Indies have a huge advantage over us because we have only had three proper matches whereas they have been playing a lot of international cricket. But, I think we are ready. We had a good break after the season, we have done some thorough fitness and preparation work and we will go into the tournament looking to win it."

● The England Under-19 top-order batsmen yesterday took the chance to play themselves into form ahead of Thursday's first Under-19 Test against South Africa. Robert Key, Steve Peters and Graham Napier all passed 50 as their tour match against Boland Under-19 ended in a draw.

TOUR MATCH (Paarl, final day of three): England Under-19 293 (I N Flanagan 68, G R Haywood 52; W du Toit 4-81) and 191 for 3 dec (R W T Key 78, G R Napier 56, S D Peters 55); Boland Under-19 253 (R Arendse 57, G Strydom 52, J Ontong 50; C P Schofield 5-82) and 83 for 1 (S van der Merwe 54no). **Match drawn.**

SAILING

Penalty fails to halt Law's progress

Demonstrating masterful tactics and boat handling, Chris Law of Great Britain won the inaugural Marriott Frenchman's Reef International Match Race by defeating the Virgin Islands' Peter Holmberg 3-0 in Charlotte Amalie Harbor for his fourth major match-racing win of the year.

Law's path to the finals was almost upset by Luc Pillot, who pushed the British boat to a 2-2 tie in the semi-final, while Holmberg beat Italy's Francesco de Angelis 3-1.

Ranked just two places behind Holmberg, Law came to St Thomas with his usual crew of James Stagg, Andy Hemmings, and Julian Salter, and local sailors Phillip Shannon and Lorenzo Hodge joined the team.

In the first race of the final, Holmberg got the jump on Law in light winds, but after two crosses, the British went ahead on a windshift and kept the lead throughout. Race two brought ferocious pre-start manoeuvering with Law getting the best of Holmberg. He then extended the lead and recorded his second victory in the best of five contest.

Needing just one more win, Law continued his aggressive starting attack, but this time was penalised. Usually spelling doom in match-race sailing, a penalty must be absolved by turning the boat 270 degrees sometime during the race before the finish.

Law's mastery of the pre-start came into play as he forced his opponent into several tactical errors and won the start convincingly. Law stretched his lead enough to perform his penalty turn and maintain his lead to win the championship.

In Lankawi, John Kostecki, who joins George Collins' Chessie Racing for the next leg of the Whitbread on Saturday, won the Malaysian Match Racing Challenge, beating fellow American Ed Baird 3-1 in the best of five final.

– Stuart Alexander

PHILIPS
ECOTONE

Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are for all League games played until Sunday December 7th. The league table includes all scores up to November 30th. The monthly winner will receive a pair of tickets to an England home international, while the overall winner gets a trip to the 1998 world cup in France.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in the *Independent on Sunday*.

HOW TO SCORE

player scores	4
clean sheet	4
winning goal	1
successful assist	3
yellow card	-1
red card	-3
manager's team wins	3
draw	1

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 7 DECEMBER

LEAGUE TABLE

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Miss Lisa Wild	Ameretto AFC	596
2	Mr B Sari	The Untouchables	591
2	Mr David Aston	Billy Boys 2nd II	591
4	Mr Archer	No Wright	589
5	Mr B Sari	Simply The Best	588
5	Mr Chris King	Seeking Victory	588
5	Mr Phil Tufler	Pins 4 Ups	588
5	Mr David Evans	Boothen End OB	588
5	Mr John Cox	Southville FC	588
10	Mr J McCrossam	Washed Up Army	587
11	Mr Stewart Scott	Unbeatable	583
12	Mr David Baker	Deja Vu	578
13	Mr Brady	Look Lively	576
14	Mr Killerby	The Killer Bees	575
15	Mr Chris Thomas	Scunthorpe Extras	573
16	Mr Ian Boyle	Wembley Bundlers	572
16	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Brace	572
16	Mr Tom Lyons	Diana's Demons	572
16	Mr Trevor Russ	Sammy's Soccer Scorchers	572
20	Mr Martin Pawley	Robert's Rovers	571
21	Mr Abdul Choudi	Nickies 9th II	569
21	Mr David Baker	Dead Beat	569
23	Mr David Edmington	Edmo Utd	568
24	Mr Stewart Scott	The Dream Team	567
24	Mr Ken Boyle	Clogston Rovers	567
26	Mr Ian Brown	Ruffus	564
27	Mr David Aston	Billy Boys 3rd II	563
27	Mr A Cummingham	The Zebra	563
27	Mr Michael Rickard	Aller Lamberg	563
30	Mr P Green	Powis Rangers	562
30	Mr C Milne	Grimsby's Fish	562
32	Mr J McCrossam	Washed Up Army	561
32	Mr David Ackroyd	Jacks Lads	561
32	Mr Tony Brazier	Wow For Short	561
32	Mr J Salt	One Watt City	561
32	Mr John Cox	Retro Rovers	561
37	Mr F Henderson	Secondary Celtic	560
38	Mr David Ashton	Billy's Boys	558
38	Mr David Boreham	Boreham Utd	558
40	Mr E Gromley	Celtic Warriors	557
40	Mr S Coulfon	No Name	557
40	Mr G Bell	Stunning Stunts	557
40	Mr R Sheridon	The Frank Large Fan Club	557
45	Mr S King	Cruising Alexander 2	554
45	Mr P Tufler	Pin Ups 2	554
47	Mr G Ford	Linthorpe Rovers	553
47	Mr K Brady	The Final Selection	553

GOALKEEPERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
300	Seaman	ARS	1	39	4.0
303	Lukic	ARS	0	0	1.0
304	Manninger	ARS	0	0	3.0
305	Bosnich	AV	0	27	4.0
306	Oakes	AV	1	5	1.5
307	Watson	BAR	0	19	1.0
308	Leese	BAR	1	9	1.0
309	Flowers	BLA	1	32	5.2
330	Filan	BLA	0	12	1.5
333	Branagan	BOL	5	39	1.2
334	De Goey	CHE	10	48	1.0
335	Grodas	CHE	0	0	1.0
336	Ogrizovic	COV	1	36	2.2
337	Hedman	COV	0	0	1.0
338	Nash	CRY	0	0	1.0
339	Day	CRY	0	0	1.0
340	Poom	DER	1	25	1.2
343	Hoult	DER	0	0	1.6
344	Southall	EVE	2	24	3.0
345	Gerrard	EVE	0	4	1.5
346	Martyn	LEE	1	32	3.3
347	Beeney	LEE	0	0	1.2
348	Keller	LEI	4	39	2.5
349	Poole	LEI	0	0	1.5
350	James	LIV	5	35	3.5
353	Warner	LIV	0	0	1.0
354	Schmeichel	MAN	5	52	5.5
355	Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	0	1.2
356	Given	NEW	0	26	2.5
357	Hislop	NEW	1	2	2.5
358	Pressman	SHEF	1	30	3.0
359	Taylor	SOU	0	0	1.8
360	Beasant	SOU	0	0	1.0
363	Walker	TOT	6	36	3.4
364	Baardsen	TOT	0	0	1.0
365	Miklosko	WH	1	12	1.5
366	Sullivan	WIM	1	31	2.7

DEFENDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
400	Dixon	ARS	0	26	2.5
403	Upson	ARS	0	0	2.0
404	Petit	ARS	1	39	4.2
405	Grimandi	ARS	0	22	2.7
406	Winterburn	ARS	1	47	2.5
407	Bould	ARS	0	26	2.5
408	Adams	ARS	0	24	3.5
409	Keown	ARS	1	2	4.5
430	Staunton	AV	1	30	3.0
433	Southgate	AV	0	27	5.2
434	Ehiogu	AV	1	39	3.0
435	Nelson	AV	1	33	1.2
436	Wright	AV	1	28	3.0
437	Scimeca	AV	1	20	2.2
438	Grayson	AV	0	26	2.2
439	Moses	BAR	-1	23	1.5
440	Appleby	BAR	0	14	2.0
443	Thompson	BAR	0	6	1.0
444	Krizan	BAR	0	11	1.0
445	Berg	MAN	5	40	3.4
446	Le Saux	CHE	5	41	5.0
447	Coleman	BLA	0	0	3.0
448	Hendry	BLA	0	36	4.4
449	Kenna	BLA	1	42	1.9
450	Henchoz	BLA	1	40	2.0
453	Valery	BLA	0	31	3.0
454	Andersson	BLA	0	4	2.5
455	Cox	BOL	0	6	2.5
456	Elliott	BOL	0	12	3.0
457	Fairclough	BOL	0	0	2.0
458	Taggart	BOL	0	19	2.5
459	Bergsson	BOL	5	37	1.5
460	Duberry	CHE	10	25	3.0
463	Petrescu	CHE	10	59	3.0
464	Lambourde	CHE	0	2	3.0
465	Leboeuf	CHE	5	42	5.0
466	Sinclair	CHE	9	38	2.5
467	Daish	COV	0	0	2.7
468	Shaw	COV	0	34	2.2
469	Burrows	COV	0	31	2.2
470	Haworth	COV	0	10	1.5
473	Edworthy	CRY	8	29	1.5
474	Gordon	CRY	6	37	2.0
475	Muscat	CRY	0	14	1.0
476	Tuttle	CRY	0	11	2.0
477	Linighan	CRY	6	31	2.0
478	Roberts	CRY	6	32	3.0
479	Hreidarsson	CRY	0	25	1.0
480	Stimac	DER	0	14	3.3
483	C Powell	DER	1	35	1.8
484	Laursen	DER	0	26	1.5
485	Eranio	DER	1	33	2.5
486	Phelan	EVE	2	10	1.9
487	Short	EVE	1	20	3.0
488	Watson	EVE	0	25	2.7
489	Unsworth	WH	1	14	3.0
490	Hinchcliffe	EVE	0	20	3.5
493	Bilic	EVE	-2	5	4.0
494	Kelly	LEE	1	44	3.6
495	Wetherall	LEE	1	37	2.5
496	Molenaar	LEE	0	21	2.5
497	Dorigo	LEE	0	0	1.2
498	Robertson	LEE	0	32	2.5
499	Walsh	LEI	5	45	2.2
500	Whitlow	BOL	5	23	1.2
503	Elliott	LEI	9	68	1.2
504	Watts	LEI	0	0	1.6
505	Wright	LIV	0	10	3.0
506	Ruddock	LIV	0	2	3.0
507	Harkness	LIV	0	10	1.2
508	Kvarme	LIV	5	30	2.5
509	Bjornebye	LIV	7	44	2.5
530	Matteo	LIV	4	16	3.0
533	McAteer	LIV	5	11	3.7
534	G Neville	MAN	5	51	4.2
535	P Neville	MAN	5	34	4.2
536	Irwin	MAN	0	33	2.5
537	Pallister	MAN	5	50	3.0
538	May	MAN	0	0	3.5
539	Johnsen	MAN	0	16	3.5
540	Silva	MAN	0	0	3.5
543	Albert	NEW	0	21	4.1
544	Howey	NEW	0	11	3.7
545	Peacock	NEW	0	20	3.0
546	Barton	NEW	0	28	3.3
547	Beresford	NEW	0	38	2.2
548	Blondeau	SHEF	0	8	2.2
549	Nolan	SHEF	1	37	1.9
550	Atherton	SHEF	5	25	1.9
553	Walker	SHEF	1	32	2.5
554	Stefanovic	SHEF	0	3	1.0
555	Newsome	SHEF	4	30	1.5
556	Monkou	SOU	1	30	1.7
557	Dodd	SOU	4	33	2.5
558	Benali	SOU	1	24	1.5
559	Van Gobbel	SOU	0	1	1.5
560	Lundekvam	SOU	1	17	1.2
563	Scales	TOT	5	20	3.4
564	Campbell	TOT	6	30	4.0
565	Calderwood	TOT	5	19	2.9
566	Austin	TOT	0	0	2.2
567	Edinburgh	TOT	1	18	1.6
568	Carr	TOT	6	34	1.2
569	Mabbutt	TOT	0	17	1.5
570	Dicks	WH	0	0	3.5
573	Rieper	WH	0	12	2.7
574	Hall	WH	0	0	3.0
575	Potts	WH	1	10	1.5
576	Ferdinand	WH	1	16	2.5
577	Impey	WH	0	4	2.2
578	Turner	WH	0	0	2.0
579	Perry	WIM	0	30	4.0
580	Cunningham	WIM	1	26	1.5
583	Thatcher	WIM	1	15	2.0
584	McAllister	WIM	0	1	1.5
585	Kimble	WIM	0	17	1.5

MIDFIELDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
601	Platt	ARS	1	17	2.5
603	Parlour	ARS	0	22	2.4
604	Pereira	ARS	0	0	2.7
605	Vieira	ARS	0	30	4.5
606	Overmars	ARS	1	32	6.0
607	Mendez Rodriguez	ARS	0	1	2.0
608	Taylor	AV	0	21	1.9
609	Townsend	AV	0	3	3.2
630	Draper	AV	1	23	4.1
633	Marcelle	BAR	0	2	2.0
634	Bullock	BAR	1	9	1.2
635	Redfearn	BAR	1	35	1.5
636	Eaden	BAR	1	11	1.2
637	Tinkler	BAR	0	10	1.0
638	Duff	BLA	0	0	3.0
639	Wilcox	BLA	1	17	3.0
640	McKinlay	BLA	1	7	2.2
643	Sherwood	BLA	1	21	3.4
644	Flitcroft	BLA	1	0	3.0
645	Frandsen	BOL	1	11	1.5
646	Thompson	BOL	1	19	2.8
647	Pollock	BOL	1	12	1.2
648	Sellars	BOL	1	19	1.5
649	Gullit	CHE	0	0	4.4
650	Di Matteo	CHE	4	20	5.0
653	Wise	CHE	5	21	3.7
654	Newton	CHE	0	4	2.4
655	P Hughes	CHE	0	3	1.0
656	Babayaro	CHE	2	6	3.0
657	Telfer	COV	1	16	1.8
658	Richardson	SOU	1	13	2.4
659	McAllister	COV	3	16	3.0
660	Salako	COV	0	11	2.4
663	Johansen	COV	0	0	2.0
664	Simpson	DER	0	1	1.2
665	Asanovic	DER	0	9	3.0
666	D Powell	DER	-1	1	1.2
667	Van Der Laan	DER	0	6	1.6
668	Dailly	DER	1	10	1.2
669	Hunt	DER	0	9	2.0
670	Parkinson	EVE	0	0	1.8
673	Grant	EVE	0	2	2.2
674	Farrelly	EVE	2	4	2.8
675	Stuart	EVE	0	26	2.5
676	Speed	EVE	2	31	2.7
677	Bowyer	LEE	1	12	3.0
678	Wallace	LEE	8	50	1.8
679	Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.5
680	Ribeiro	LEE	4	34	1.5
683	Haaland	LEE	4	17	2.5
684	Parker	LEI	0	9	2.5
685	Taylor	LEI	0	0	1.6
686	Izzet	LEI	1	23	2.1
687	Lennon	LEI	1	13	3.2
688	Guppy	LEI	1	32	1.7
689	Barnes	NEW	1	33	3.0
690	Redknapp	LIV	1	9	5.2
693	McManaman	LIV	6	48	5.9
694	Thomas	LIV	0	12	3.0
695	Leonhardsen	LIV	1	16	4.0
696	Giggs	MAN	1	35	7.4
697	Beckham	MAN	1	43	7.0
698	Keane	MAN	0	14	7.0
699	Butt	MAN	0	24	7.0
700	Poborski	MAN	0	11	3.5
703	Lee	NEW	-1	16	3.6
704	Batty	NEW	0	5	3.8
705	Gillespie	NEW	1	18	2.5
706	Beardsley	BOL	0	17	2.0
707	Ketsbaia	NEW	8	19	2.0
708	Blinker	SHEF	0	0	2.5
709	Hyde	SHEF	0	6	1.8
730	Whittingham	SHEF	1	34	1.7
733	Carbone	SHEF	0	42	3.0
734	Magilton	SHEF	1	15	2.4
735	Slater	SOU	0	2	1.5
736	Oakley	SOU	1	11	1.2
737	Anderton	TOT	1	2	6.0
738	Fox	TOT	4	23	3.5
739	Howells	TOT	0	10	3.2
740	Ginola	TOT	6	27	3.5
743	Sinton	TOT	2	14	3.0
744	Nielsen	TOT	1	3	2.5
745	Williamson	EVE	2	11	2.0
746	M Hughes	WIM	1	13	2.0
747	Moncur	WH	0	8	2.5
748	Bishop	WH	0	2	2.5
749	Berkovic	WH	1	38	2.5
750	Lomas	WH	1	11	3.0
753	Jones	WIM	1	13	2.8
754	Earle	WIM	0	18	3.1
755	Ardley	WIM	1	27	2.0
756	Fear	WIM	0	0	2.0
757	C Hughes	WIM	1	14	2.0

STRIKERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
800	Bergkamp	ARS	1	63	7.5
803	Wright	ARS	1	54	7.2
804	Boamorte Pereira	ARS	0	0	2.0
805	Yorke	AV	5	34	6.7
806	Joachim	AV	0	11	2.4
807	Collymore	AV	1	24	8.1
808	Wilkinson	BAR	0	6	1.2
809	Hendrie	BAR	0	0	1.5
830	Hristov	BAR	0	8	1.5
833	Sutton	BLA	-3	53	4.5
834	Gallacher	BLA	0	54	3.0
835	Dahlin	BLA	0	13	4.0
836	McGinlay	BOL	0	3	2.2
837	Blake	BOL	6	40	2.7
838	Zola	CHE	18	44	9.0
839	Vialli	CHE	1	26	3.5
840	Ma Hughes	CHE	4	28	4.4
843	Tore Andre Flo	CHE	0	16	3.0
844	Dublin	COV	1	49	3.5
845	Whelan	COV	0	0	3.0
846	Huckerby	COV	1	25	3.5
847	Soltvedt	COV	0	14	1.5
848	Lightbourne	COV	0	0	1.5
849	Dyer	CRY	2	21	2.0
850	Freedman	CRY	0	2	2.0
853	Ndah	CRY	0	3	1.0
854	Shipperley	CRY	11	24	2.0
855	Ward	BAR	5	23	2.5
856	Sturridge	DER	0	23	5.0
857	Wanchope	DER	1	35	3.0
858	Ferguson	EVE	0	22	6.5
859	Barmby	EVE	2	12	4.5
860	Deane	LEE	0	0	3.0
863	Lilley	LEE	8	8	1.5
864	Hasselbaink	LEE	1	29	3.0
865	Claridge	LEI	0	7	3.5
866	Heskey	LEI	0	29	5.5
867	Fowler	LIV	0	30	9.5
868	Berger	LIV	0	20	4.0
869	Owen	LIV	0	28	2.5
870	Scholes	MAN	0	31	6.0
873	Cole	MAN	1	49	6.2
874	Solskjaer	MAN	9	37	7.0
875	Sheringham	MAN	7	49	5.0
876	Nevland	MAN	0	0	2.0
877	Shearer	NEW	0	0	10.0
878	Asprilla	NEW	0	15	7.4
879	Ferdinand	NEW	2	25	5.0
880	Tomasson	NEW	6	21	4.0
883	Gudjonsson	NEW	0	0	2.0
884	Humphreys	SHEF	0	2	2.5
885	Booth	SHEF	1	25	3.5
886	Hirst	SOU	5	34	3.5
887	Le Tissier	SOU	4	19	7.0
888	Evans	SOU	0	6	1.5
889	Ostenstad	SOU	0	9	3.2
890	Armstrong	TOT	0	13	5.9
893	Iversen	TOT	1	6	4.0
894	Hartson	WH	9	57	5.0
895	Kitson	WH	0	9	3.5
896	Holdsworth	BOL	1	12	3.5
897	Ekoku	WIM	0	26	4.0
898	Gayle	WIM	1	16	4.0
899	Euell	WIM	0	7	1.5

MANAGERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
901	Wenger	ARS	0	27	7.5
903	Little	AV	0	18	5.0
904	Wilson	BAR	0	13	2.0
905	Hodgson	BLA	0	30	5.0
906	Todd	BOL	3	16	2.5
907	Gullit	CHE	6	31	4.5
908	Strachan	COV	0	17	3.0
909	Coppell	CRY	3	19	2.0
930	Smith	DER	0	23	2.0
933	Kendall	EVE	0	12	2.5
934	Graham	LEE	3	29	3.5
935	O'Neill	LEI	3	26	4.5
936	Evans	LIV	3	34	7.0
937	Ferguson	MAN	3	34	9.0
938	Dalglish	NEW	3	24	7.0
939	Pleat*	SHEF	0	9	4.0
940	Jones	SOU	0	16	2.5
943	Francis*	TOT	0	13	4.5
944	Redknapp	WH	3	19	3.3
945	Kinnear	WIM	0	19	4.5

*currently out of management

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Distance learning for Trying Again

Britain's most exciting young steeplechaser, Simply Dashing, is due to run on Saturday. But the venue is yet to be decided – leaving two race tracks, Ascot and Haydock, anxiously awaiting news of who will have the weekend's main attraction.

Trying Again, who was well backed in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury 10 days ago but faded to be a well-beaten fifth to Suny Bay, is set to run in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday.

"Trying Again is a probable runner." David Gandolfo, who trains the nine-year-old, said yesterday. Saturday's race is over two miles and five furlongs, more than five furlongs shorter than the Hennessy. But testing ground would suit Gandolfo's horse best.

"I was pleased with him in the Hennessy as he didn't get the trip and the step down will suit him at Cheltenham. Three miles is his best distance but there aren't many races at that."

Coulton is set to carry top weight of 12 stone in the Tripleprint, for which 10 horses were confirmed at yesterday's five-day stage.

Coulton's presence – described by trainer Oliver Sherwood as "99 per cent" certain to run – will stop the weights going up which would suit Simply Dashing, next in the handicap with 11st 5lb.

However, Tim Easterby's impressive Ascot winner also holds an engagement in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock on the same day and plans have yet to be finalised.

Bells Life, winner of last season's John Hughes Trophy at Aintree, reappears in the £60,000-added contest, having missed his intended comeback at Chepstow last Saturday.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Royale Angela
(Plumpton 3.10)
NB: Woodlands Boy
(Plumpton 2.10)

Sarah Hobbs, wife of trainer Philip Hobbs, explained: "He got a minor injury on his back leg coming down the gallops and although he had got over it OK he just needed a bit more time, so we decided to give Chepstow a miss.

"Glenn Tormey, who usually rides him, will probably ride on Saturday."

Whatever the fate of Bells Life in the Tripleprint, his trainer has mapped out an ambitious campaign for the eight-year-old.

"After Cheltenham he will follow the same route as Samlee [stable companion] and go for the Welsh National with the Grand National his main target." Mrs Hobbs added.

Challenger du Luc will renew rivalry with his Murphy's Gold Cup conqueror Senor El Betrutti on 3lb better terms for the three-length defeat suffered by Martin Pipe's charge.

Fine Thyme, runner-up to Simply Dashing in the First National Bank Gold Cup, is also in the Cheltenham feature but is currently 4lb out of the handicap. The Amanda Perrett-trained eight-year-old goes best on good ground or faster.

David Nicholson has two entries in the race, Kadi (10st 1lb) and Destin d'Estruval (9st 13lb) with the first named requiring soft ground. Scottish-trained Major Bell makes up the numbers.

Katie's Cracker, Mick Quinn's second runner as a trainer, was a runner-up at Southwell yesterday, beaten half a length by Cutting Anshake, who is trained and owned by old footballing partners, Mick Channon and Kevin Keegan.

"The guv'nor has turned me over," said Quinn, referring to his two-year spell as assistant trainer to Channon before recently gaining his own licence.

TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP: Ante-post odds (Cashman's): 11-4 Simply Dashing, 4-1 Challenger du Luc, Trying Again, 6-1 Coulton, 7-1 Senor El Betrutti, 10-1 Kadi, 12-1 Major Bell, 14-1 Fine Thyme, 16-1 Destin D'Estruval, 20-1 Bells Life.

Christopher Spence (above) is to succeed Sir Thomas Pilkington as Senior Steward of the Jockey Club for a four-year term from 1 July next year. Spence has held various posts in racing but is best known to most racegoers as the owner of Celeric, ridden by Pat Eddery to win the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot last June.

Wyatt credited with Tote advance

Tributes were paid yesterday to Lord Wyatt of Weeford, the former chairman of the Horserace Totalisator Board who has died aged 79. The former Labour MP died in hospital on Sunday after suffering a burst artery in his stomach.

The flamboyant Lord Wyatt was chairman of the Tote in 1976 until July 31 this year when he was succeeded by Peter Jones.

The peer is credited with the introduction of Tote Direct, a computerised system through which major off-course bookmakers accept bets that are then placed in the Tote's pools on a commission basis.

Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the British Horseracing Board, said yesterday: "Woodrow's passing is particularly sad for me as he was first associated with my family half a century ago, when he was personal assistant to my grandfather, Sir Stafford Cripps, on the Cabinet Mission to India."

Ricketts added: "His 21 years at the helm of the Tote will long be remembered as the period in which this key organisation embraced new technology, customer service, expansion of outlets on and off course and, crucially, Tote Direct."

John Heaton, the Tote's chief executive also paid his respects: "Lord Wyatt transformed the Tote during his leadership making it one of the most technically advanced betting organisations in the world."

Obituary, page 18

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

One Man, the form of whose Huntingdon victory was given a boost by the prominent display of the runner-up, Viking Flagship, in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown on Saturday, is the 5-4 favourite for the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Cariboo Gold is 25-1 for the Welsh National with Coral – the Tote off just 14-1, while **Dorans Pride** remains the 6-1 favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup following his bloodless victory at Fairyhouse on Sunday.

– Ian Davies

King George VI Chase (3m)

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
One Man (G Richards)	6-5	5-4	5-4	5-4
Suny Bay (C Brooks)	4-1	*3-1	*7-2	*3-1
Simply Dashing (T Easterby)	4-1	9-2	5-1	9-2
Mr Mulligan (N Chance)	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2
Barton Bank (D Nicholson)	11-2	6-1	5-1	6-1
Rough Quest (T Casey)	16-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Trying Again (D Gandolfo)	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Lonesome Glory (F Bruce Miller/US)	25-1	25-1	33-1	25-1

*Each-way a fifth the odds, places. 1, 2, 3 (Kempton, Friday 26 December) * - with a run*

Welsh National Handicap Chase (3m 5f 110yds)

Horse (Trainer, weight)	Coral	William Hill	Tote
Cyborgo (M Pipe/11st3lb)	7-1	6-1	6-1
Indian Tracker (M Pipe/10st13lb)	8-1	7-1	8-1
Banjo (D Nicholson/11st11lb)	7-1	10-1	10-1
Samlee (P Hobbs/10st1lb)	8-1	10-1	10-1
What A Hand (P Nicholls/10st6lb)	10-1	10-1	10-1
Eudipe (M Pipe/11st9lb)	10-1	10-1	12-1
Mudahim (Mrs J Pitman/11st1lb)	doubtful	12-1	12-1
Belmont King (P Nicholls/12st)	10-1	12-1	14-1
General Wolfe (T Forster/11st)	14-1	14-1	14-1
Lively Knight (J Gifford/10st7lb)	12-1	10-1	14-1
Bells Life (P Hobbs/11st3lb)	12-1	12-1	16-1
Celtic Abbey (Miss V Williams/10st9lb)	16-1	14-1	16-1
Kamikaze (K Bailey/10st2lb)	16-1	14-1	16-1
Trying Again (D Gandolfo/11st8lb)	doubtful	16-1	16-1
Air Shot (D Nicholson/11st)	20-1	16-1	16-1
Giventime (A Turnell/10st2lb)	20-1	16-1	14-1
Cariboo Gold (K Bailey/10st1lb)	25-1	16-1	14-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places. 1, 2, 3, 4 (Chepstow, Saturday 27 December)

1998 Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase (3m 2f 110yds)

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
Dorans Pride (M Hourigan/Ir)	6-1	6-1	5-1	6-1
Suny Bay (C Brooks)	6-1	6-1	6-1	7-1
The Grey Monk (G Richards)	8-1	8-1	7-1	8-1
Mr Mulligan (N Chance)	10-1	12-1	10-1	10-1
Addington Boy (G Richards)	16-1	16-1	16-1	12-1
Imperial Call (F Sutherland/Ir)	14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
Simply Dashing (T Easterby)	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-1
Cyborgo (M Pipe)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Barton Bank (D Nicholson)	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Rough Quest (T Casey)	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Sparky Gayle (C Parker)	25-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Strong Promise (G Hubbard)	16-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Banjo (D Nicholson)	33-1	25-1	33-1	25-1
Coome Hill (W Dennis)	25-1	20-1	33-1	16-1
Danoli (T Foley, Ir)	33-1	33-1	20-1	25-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places. 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Thursday 19 March)

RESULTS

LUDLOW

12.35: 1. **MEADOW DANCER** (B Powell) 5-1 2. **Among Islands** 5-4 fav. 3. **Comeonup** 3-1. 12 ran. 1½, 18. (Miss S Wilton, Stoke-on-Trent) **Tote:** £5.80 £2.00 £1.10 £2.80 DF: £4.10 CSF: £10.55 Trio: £7.30 NR: The Sharrow Legend.

1.10: 1. **MR STRONG GALE** (T J Murphy) 4-1 jt fav; 2. **Gratomi** 10-1, 3. **Can't Say** 9-1 14 ran. 4-1 jt fav Rossell Island. 5, 25. (P Nicholls, Shepton Mallett) **Tote:** £5.90: £2.20 £2.40 £1.60 DF: £39.80 CSF: £36.54 Tricast: £309.14 Trio: £63.10.

1.40: 1. **GALLOPING GUNS** (Guy Lewis) 5-2 fav. 2. **Lancer** 9-1. 3. **Dontdressfordinner** 9-2. 7 ran. 10. (B Llewellyn, Bargoed) **Tote:** £2.40: £1.30 £6.20 DF: £9.50 CSF: £23.98 Tricast: £91.79 NR: Club Caribbean.

2.10: 1. **BORO HILL** (Mr R Wakley) 15-2. 2. **Now We Know** 13-8 fav. 3. **Jim Valentine** 4-1 8 ran. 2, 12. (Miss P Whittle, Ledbury) **Tote:** £7.50: £2.10 £1.60 £1.10 DF: £10.50 CSF: £19.16 Tricast: £50.40.

2.40: 1. **FREELINE FONTAINE** (M A Fitzgerald) 11-2. 2. **Be In Space** 20-1; 3. **Bet Wiltshire** 11-2. 13 ran. 7-2 fav Catempo (pu). Sht-hd, 22. (N Henderson, Lambourn) **Tote:** £5.40: £2.30 £5.00 £1.40 DF: £108.00 CSF: £104.20 Tricast: £593.07 Trio: not won.

3.10: 1. **KADASTROF** (A Thornton) 8-13 fav. 2. **Charming Girl** 11-4. 3. **Speedwell Prince** 12-1 6 ran. 4, dist. (R Dickin, [illegible]) **Tote:** £1.50 £1.10 £1.30 DF: £3.40 CSF: £2.78

3.40: 1. **BILLY BOX** (D Bridgwater) 7-4. 2. **Jaburu** 16-1. 3. **L'Idefix** 66-1 18 ran. 11-8 fav Dirty Dozen (5th). 1, 3. (G McCourt, Wantage) **Tote:** £2.80 £1.20 £3.20 £13.20 DF: £23.40 CSF: £29.09 Trio: £194.40

Placepot: £23.50 **Quadpot:** £16.80

Place 6: £25.62 **Place 5:** £19.62

MUSSELBURGH

12.20: 1. **MARY'S FEELINGS** (R Garritty) 6-1 2. **Meadow Blue** 7-2 3. **Hurst Flyer** 9-4 fav 12 ran. 1½, 12. (M Hammond, Middleham) **Tote:** £5.40: £2.40 £1.30 £2.00 DF: £12.30 CSF: £24.69 Trio: £23.50 NR: Kissel

12.50: 1. **DASHMAR** (J Goldstein) 10-1; 2. **Weather Wise** 11-4 fav 3. **Highland Park** 13-2 11 ran. 3, 1. (Ms L Plater, Newcastle upon Tyne) **Tote:** £9.30; £2.00 £1.10 £2.10 DF: £32.90 CSF: £38.35 Tricast: £133.35 Trio: £46.10.

1.20: 1. **BLUE CHARM** (Mr M Bradburne) 3-1; 2. **Linden's Lotto** 5-1, 3. **Tough Test** 8-1 9 ran. 5-2 fav Mister Ross (5th). 1½, 10. (Mrs S Bradburne, Cupar) **Tote:** £3.40: £1.10 £1.40 £4.90 DF: £27.40 CSF: £17.72 Tricast: £100.33 Trio: £44.30

1.50: 1. **BEST OF ALL** (D Parker) 13-8 fav; 2. **Scaraben** 4-1; 3. **Rapid Mover** 11-1 6 ran. 6, sht-hd. (J Berry, Cockerham). **Tote:** £3.30: £1.10, £2.40 DF: £3.60 CSF: £7.89

2.20: 1. **MY SHENANDOAH** (A S Smith) 3-1; 2. **Glenbower** 7-1; 3. **Point Duty** 33-1. 12 ran. 11-4 fav Balleswhidden. 10, 8. (J Howard Johnson, Crook) **Tote:** £4.60; £3.00, £1.70 £4.10 DF: £11.70 CSF: £22.29 Tricast: £542.75 Trio: £272.50 (part won).

2.50: 1. **ROYAL YORK** (P Carberry) 5-2. 2. **Master Bavard** 9-1. 3. **Tom Brodie** 11-10 fav 12 ran. 4, nk. (G Richards, Greystoke). **Tote:** £3.20: £1.10 £1.70, £1.40 DF: £13.50 CSF: £19.05 Trio: £9.50

3.20: 1. **THREE FRANKS** (N Horrocks) 33-1. 2. **Joe Buzz** 12-1; 3. **Caius** evens fav 14 ran. 1, 3. (M Hammond, Middleham). **Tote:** £32.40 £5.80, £1.70, £1.10 DF: £74.00 CSF: £357.21 Trio: £104.90 NR: Parlanca Bay. **Jackpot:** not won (pool of £22049.87 carried forward to Huntingdon today)

Placepot: £11.90 **Quadpot:** £5.40

Place 6: £23.70 **Place 5:** £18.44

SOUTHWELL

12.00: 1. **MOONRAKING** (W J O'Connor) 6-1. 2. **Guesstimation** 7-2 fav. 3. **Premier Generation** 11-2. 14 ran. 2, 3½. (T Etherington). **Tote:** £9.20; £1.90 £1.70, £2.70 DF: £17.70. CSF: £25.76 Tricast: £120.96 Trio: £34.00 NR: Al Ava Consonant.

12.30: 1. **LA DOYENNE** (J Bramhill) 20-1; 2. **Sunset Harbour** 10-1, 3. **Napier Star** 7-1; 4. **Napoleon Star** 14-1 17 ran. 6-1 fav Statoyork. 3, 1. (C Booth) **Tote:** £45.90; £5.40, £3.50 £1.70 £2.50 DF: £714.90 CSF: £211.10 Tricast: £1498.50 Trio: not won.

1.00: 1. **RAED** (G Duffield) 5-4 fav; 2. **Up In Flames** 100-30; 3. **Royal Legend** 14-1 13 ran. 2½, 2. (Mrs A Swinbank) **Tote:** £2.40, £1.40, £2.00, £4.90. DF: £4.30 CSF: £6.52 Tricast: £56.46 Trio: £82.00 NR: Teddy's Bow.

1.30: 1. **GREENSPAN** (J Wilkinson) 100-30. 2. **Shakyr** 14-1; 3. **Pickens** 20-1 12 ran. 3-1 fav Kalamata (4th). 1, 3. (W Muir). **Tote:** £4.20, £1.50 £4.00 £3.70 DF: £48.40 CSF: £53.49. Trio: £194.50 (part won)

2.00: 1. **NOBALINO** (P McCabe) 7-1. 2. **Alzoon** 3-1 fav; 3. **Village Native** 11-2; 4. **Rennyholme** 14-1 17 ran. 1, 2. (Mrs N Macauley). **Tote:** £12.70, £1.30, £1.90 £2.80 £3.20 DF: £40.70 CSF: £31.90 Tricast: £135.97 Trio: £62.70

2.30: 1. **SUMMERSEAT** (A Culhane) 12-1. 2. **Phantom Ring** 6-1 3. **Super Gail** 6-1 13 ran. 11-4 fav Carol Singer. Hd, 1½. (G Holmes). **Tote:** £19.60; £6.30, £2.10, £3.10 DF: £95.40 CSF: £90.19 Tricast: £463.34 Trio: £275.60 (part won)

3.00: 1. **CUTTING ANSHAKE** (R Perham) 10-1 2. **Katie's Cracker** 5-1, 3. **Blue Desert** 11-4 fav 16 ran. ½, ½. (M Channon) **Tote:** £15.10, £4.40 £2.40 £2.00 DF: £52.80 CSF: £71.55 Trio: £183.50

3.30: 1. **DEMOCRAT** (Mr C Vigors) 7-4 fav 2. **Zalotto** 8-1; 3. **Silk St John** 5-1; 4. **Bomico** 12-1 16 ran. 4, 3. (Sir Mark Prescott). **Tote:** £3.40; £1.10 £1.60, £3.90 £4.30. DF: £31.10 CSF: £20.01 Tricast: £72.98. Trio: £69.00.

Placepot: £333.60 **Quadpot:** £50.60

Place 6: £377.99 **Place 5:** £166.99

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PLUMPTON

HYPERION
12.40 Totally Yours
1.10 Music Please
1.40 Farfadet V
2.10 Equity Player
2.40 OUROWNFELLOW (nap)
3.10 Royale Angela
3.40 Maylin Magic

GOING: Soft (Heavy in patches).

● Left-hand, undulating course with sharp bends. Tricky downhill fence in back straight. Uphill run-in of 200yd.

● Racecourse is off A275 south of Haywards Heath. Plumpton rail station adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Members £13; Tattersalls £9; Course £5. **CAR PARK:** £4 (centre of course) & £1.

● **LEADING TRAINERS:** M Pipe 22 winners from 45 runners gives a success ratio of 48.9%. J Jenkins 13-77 (16.9%), R Rowe 13-84 (15.5%), D Grissell 11-76 (14.5%).

● **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A P McCoy 26 wins from 76 rides gives a success ratio of 34.2%. J R Kavanagh 12-62 (19.4%), W McFarland 7-42 (16.7%), B Fenton 6-76 (7.9%).

● **FAVOURITES:** 189 wins in 440 races (43%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Precious Wonder (1.10) (visored), Bigwig (3.10), Milly Le Moss (3.40).

12.40 BRIGHTON NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,122

1		SANWOOD (M R Pascall) J Bridger 4 11 1	W Marston
2	22143	TOTALLY YOURS (10) (CD) (Knight Hawks Partnership) M Pipe 4 11 1	A P McCoy V
3	58/	MOORLANDMERRYMAKER (621) (Mrs M A Simpson) D Gandolfo 7 10 12	G Upton
4	FP-P	JOCTOR DON (27) (Mrs Derek Strauss) J S Moore 5 10 11	J Magee (3)
5		BURNING FLAME (F187) (Jan Reck) R Flower 4 10 9	P Holley
6	P06-60	FRIAR'S OAK (6) (Ian Moody) P Butler 5 10 5	B Powell
7		MAD ALEX (F139) (J P Saunders) M Haynes 4 10 5	C Llewellyn
8	16	STEAM ON (15) (CD) (Gallagher Equine Ltd) Mrs L Jewell 6 10 5	J R Kavanagh
9	0FP-45	NORTH END LADY (15) (J J Sullivan) Mrs L Jewell 6 10 0	D Leahy

– 9 declared –

BETTING: 4-9 Totally Yours, 5-1 North End Lady, 10-1 Steam On, 16-1 Moorlandmerrymaker, Mad Alex, 25-1 Sanwood, Burning Flame, 33-1 others

1996: Urban Lily 6 9 10 J Harris (7) 10-11 fav (R Hodges) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

This looks good for **TOTALLY YOURS**, winner of three of her seven hurdle races – at Uttoxeter, Newton Abbot and over course and distance – and in the frame in the others. She acts in the mud and has precious little to beat. Steam On sprang a 50-1 shock when mastering 9-2 on chance Albemine (winner of a Catterick seller last week) a head in a poor claimer over the trip here in October and was brought down at Ludlow two weeks ago. A better forecast bet might be **North End Lady**. A Worcester bumper winner on her debut last term, she was having only her second outing of the season when keeping on to finish fifth behind Beryllium at Ludlow and could improve. Selection: TOTALLY YOURS

1.10 HENFIELD MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m Penalty Value £2,490

1	/U0-P0	ALL OVER RED ROVER (13) (Gary J Roberts) A Carroll 5 11 5	G Tormey
2	5/0-02	BARRISTERS BOY (14) (The Rumpole Partnership) J Old 7 11 5	C Llewellyn
3	F2/P-5	COOL SPOT (20) (Dave Howe) G Enright 8 11 5	R Bellamy
4	24432/	LETS RUMBLE (652) (BF) (H V Perry) R Alner 8 11 5	Mr J Tizzard (5)
5	5423-6	MUSIC PLEASE (19) (D J Equine Supplies Ltd) Miss V Williams 5 11 5	A P McCoy
6	530P-P	PRECIOUS WONDER (6) (D J Butler) P Butler 8 11 5	B Powell V
7	4-	BAY LOUGH (228) (Guy Luck) R Rowe 6 11 0	B Fenton

– 7 declared –

BETTING: 1-2 Barristers Boy, 4-1 Lets Rumble, 8-1 Music Please, 12-1 Cool Spot, 25-1 Bay Lough, 33-1 others

1996: No corresponding race

FORM GUIDE

Jim Old's team is in tremendous form and **BARRISTER BOY** stands out here on his chasing-debut neck second to Dancetillyoudrop at Worcester a fortnight ago. The seven-year-old – tailed off in a novices' handicap hurdle at the same track last month on his only other previous appearance this term – rallied on the run-in after making most of the running and must progress with the experience. **Music Please**, trained by Kim Bailey last season when he was a neck runner-up to Geisway at Fakenham (novices' handicap hurdle) on his penultimate start, was sold for 11,500gns at the Doncaster May Sales. The Music Boy five-year-old looked in need of the race when sixth of 16 finishers behind Ginger Fox at Warwick (novices' hurdle) last month on his first outing from Venetia Williams' stable. Music Please will have been well schooled for this fencing bow and can follow Barristers Boy home. **Lets Rumble** finished runner-up to Credon here in February last year, has not been out since. Selection: BARRISTER BOY

1.40 DITCHLING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,384

1	131	FARFADET V (FR) (12) (C M , B J & R F Batterham II) M Pipe 4 11 12	A P McCoy
2	16	GUEST ALLIANCE (18) (Ballard (1834) Limited) G L Moore 5 11 5	J R Kavanagh
3	55024-	ADILOV (223) (Trevor Mitchell) J Bridger 5 10 12	W Marston
4	1-3	JUST NIP (22) (B Seal, D & M Evans) Mrs L Richards 4 10 12	M Richards
5	-23656	KOPAIN (44) (Stuart-Parsons/Watson/Burr/Finn) L Wells 7 10 12	S McNeill
6	5045-P	BE MY MOT (155) (R Winchester & Son) D Grissell 5 10 7	B Fenton
7	6-64	CLAREGARY (8) (C Cornwell) R Rowe 4 10 7	A Garrity (7)

– 7 declared –

BETTING: 4-9 Farfadet V, 11-2 Guest Alliance, 10-1 Adilov, Just Nip, 20-1 Claregary, 25-1 Kopain, Be My Mot

1996: Emerald Statement 6 10 9 G Hogan (3) 4-7 fav (D Grissell) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

Martin Pipe does exceptionally well with his French acquisitions and **FARFADET V**, who made most of the running and battled on gamely to regain the advantage and beat Lord Rochfield a length and three-quarters on his British debut at Uttoxeter, can supplement the gains. The four-year-old was also successful at Vichy in August, following with an Auteuil third and there is better still to come. Irish import Kopain, runner-up in a maiden hurdle at Ballinrobe in July and third in a Kilbeggan bumper the following month but unplaced in three outings since, should go well on his British debut but **Guest Alliance** may be the one to follow the selection home. Guest Alliance won twice on the Lingfield Equitrack (1995 and 1996) and trotted up first time up over timber at Fontwell last month, though he ran below expectations when only sixth to Supreme Charm at Ascot 11 days afterwards. Just Nip, a Sedgefield bumper winner on his single start last season, will be the better for his first effort over timber – third to Fill The Bill here three weeks ago when drifting from 3-1 to twice those odds. Selection: FARFADET V

2.10 OWL HOLDINGS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,558

1	/1P-P1	EQUITY PLAYER (12) (The Mrs S Partnership) R Curtis 12 12 0	C Llewellyn
2	12P62-	WOODLANDS BOY (295) (CD) (Stan Moore) P Mooney 9 11 11	A P McCoy
3	344-41	KARAR (22) (CD) (Mrs Margaret Sampson) R Rowe 7 11 1	B Fenton
4	-56554	BEATSON (14) (CD) (Mrs E B Gardiner) R Buckler 8 10 12	B Powell
5	56F6/	JOJO (607) (C) (John Grist) D Grissell 7 10 0	J R Kavanagh
6	0P-246	FOREST FEATHER (23) (D) (David Knox) C Weedon 9 10 0	M Richards

– 6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Jojo, Forest Feather 9st 13lb.

BETTING: 11-4 Karar, 3-1 Equity Player, Woodlands Boy, 7-2 Forest Feather, 9-2 Beatson, 14-1 Jojo.

1996: Beatson 7 10 8 B Powell 11-4 (R Buckler) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

KARAR, who went in over course and distance three weeks back on only his second appearance of the season, can follow up racing off a 5lb higher mark. True, that might have been a weak heat, but then again so is this and, as it was only his second race of the season – he twisted a shoe and badly gashed his chest on his reappearance – there should be better still to come from Richard Rowe's runner. Beatson landed this a year ago for the middle leg of a hat-trick but has lost his way this term and Equity Player may prove Karar's toughest rival. A prolific point-to-point winner in his younger days, Equity Player is only a pound higher than when battling on gamely to defeat Mammy's Choice (five years his junior) three parts of a length at Taunton last time. Woodlands Boy went in over course and distance 13 months ago but has a 295-day absence against him. Selection: KARAR

2.40 'GALLEANO' CHALLENGE CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS E) £4,100 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,917

1	2165-3	BRAMBLEHILL BUCK (21) (BF) (T and J A Curry) P Nicholls 8 12 0	L Cummins (5) B
2	5243-F	ALY DALEY (17) (Michael Tobitt) P Mooney 9 11 11	A P McCoy
3	1325-1	SIMPSON (8) (D) (John Bickel) J Old 12 11 8 (7ex)	C Llewellyn
4	/U00-F	VERYVEL (CZE) (4) (David S Lewis) J Neville 6 11 7	G Bradley
5	/P10-1	WISHING WILLIAM (22) (C) (Executive Racing Club) Miss H Knight 5 10 8	J F Titley
6	/34P-F	OUROWNFELLOW (13) (Kings Of The Road Partnership) R Curtis 8 10 5	Mr S Durack (5)
7	-34530	JOKER JACK (14) (Richard Dean) R Dean 12 10 0	D Leahy

– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Joker Jack 8st 8lb.

BETTING: 9-4 Bramblehill Buck, 5-2 Simpson, 7-2 Wishing William, 9-2 Aly Daley, 10-1 Ourownfellow, 25-1 Veryvel, 33-1 Joker Jack

1996: Jurassic Classic 9 12 0 M Richards 6-1 (Mrs L Richards) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

Simpson had been off the track since the end of March when trouncing solitary rival Decyborg (who was favourite) 17 lengths at Worcester eight days ago and represents the in-form Jim Old stable. However, he is raised 7lb for that and faces a stiff task conceding 22lb (including Seamus Durack's allowance) to **OUROWNFELLOW**. Roger Curtis's runner was in the lead only to fall six fences out (the 13th) in Ekeus's race at Windsor two weeks ago on his first appearance since January. He had jumped well until that lapse. **Wishing William**, an Irish point winner but unplaced in a bumper on his only outing last season, made a successful start over regulation fences over two miles five here three weeks ago but the form amounts to little. He was left in front when market leader Rosevalley (who was upsides) fell two fences out and beat only Ring Corbitts (a maiden after 20 races) and Primitive Streak. Bramblehill Buck has yet to win away from Newton Abbot (four wins). A lazy type, he is a very difficult ride and finished a remote third to Dom Samurai when favourite there on his return. The muddy conditions will suit but he is not one to rate support. Selection: OUROWNFELLOW

3.10 H.B.L.B. EASTBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £1,970

1	6F3/21	ROYALE ANGELA (FR) (8) (D) (J Neville) J Neville 5 11 12 (7ex)	G Bradley
2	422-52	DRUM BATTLE (14) (David Chown) W G M Turner 5 11 10	R Greene
3	11102	NORTHERN DRUMS (12) (Ron Peake) M Pipe 4 11 10	A P McCoy
4	42316-	KELLY MAC (253) (CD) (BF) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 7 11 5	Mr S Durack (5)
5	032PP/	CHALLENGER ROW (608) (No Need To Argue Partnership) Mrs L Jewell 7 10 1	J R Kavanagh
6	044-05	BIGWIG (24) (Mrs Elizabeth Kiernan) G L Moore 4 10 0	M Batchelor (7) B
7	5-665P	DO BE WARE (9) (C) (Roger J Spencer) J Ffitch-Heyes 7 10 0	B Fenton

– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights. Bigwig 9st 9lb, Do Be Ware 9st 6lb.

BETTING: 6-4 Northern Drums, 9-4 Royale Angela, 4-1 Drum Battle, 10-1 Kelly Mac, 12-1 Bigwig, 25-1 Challenger Row, Do Be Ware

1996: Ismeno 5 11 9 A Dicken 8-1 (S Dow) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

Bought out of Norman Babbage's stable for 4,800gns after winning at Taunton in October, **NORTHERN DRUMS** has since won three times for Martin Pipe and was beaten a length and a quarter by subsequent scorer Gutteridge on a return to Taunton 12 days ago – the pair 15 lengths clear. Northern Drums has yet to encounter soft ground but, being by Sadler's Wells, should have no problems with it and can return to winning form despite being raised 9lb. **Royale Angela**, off the course last season and runner-up to the selection's stablemate Deano's Beeno at Newton Abbot on his return, went one better at Worcester (soft) eight days ago and might provide most danger despite top weight. **Drum Battle** has also raced just twice this term and went down only a length to subsequent scorer Sesame Seed at Worcester a fortnight ago. **Kelly Mac** was a course and distance winner in March but is without an outing since finishing runner-up behind Night In A Million here 11 days later. Selection: NORTHERN DRUMS

3.40 LADBROKE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,385

1	00/33-	UNSINKABLE BOXER (284) (Paul Green) M Pipe 8 11 13	A P McCoy
2	6-501P	ESPERANZA IV (FR) (11) (D) (Mike Roberts) M J Roberts 5 11 4	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
3	424-23	MAYLIN MAGIC (18) (Exors of the Late Mr F Lipscomb) T Casey 6 11 3	W Marston
4	5635-4	MISS SECRET (30) (C W Mitchell) C Mitchell 7 10 9	S McNeill
5	34-455	TELLAPORKY (8) (Rod Simpson) R Simpson 8 10 0	A Bates (5)
6	00P/0	YOUNG ARDROSS (18) (Atlantic Foods Ltd) C Weedon 6 10 0	M Richards
7	04P	CASTLE BARRY (23) (Mrs S Wall) A M Newton-Smith 6 10 0	C Llewellyn
8	0PP-60	MILLY LE MOSS (14) (R J Eckley) R Eckley 8 10 0	L Cummins (5) B

– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Tellaporky 9st 7lb. Young Ardross 8st 3lb. Castle Barry 8st 13lb, Milly Le Moss 8st 11lb.

BETTING: 9-4 Unsinkable Boxer, 7-2 Esperanza IV, Maylin Magic, 4-1 Miss Secret, 7-1 Tellaporky, 25-1 Young Ardross, Castle Barry, 33-1 Milly Le Moss

1996: Copper Coil 6 11 4 J Power (7) 10-1 (W G M Turner) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

MAYLIN MAGIC is still a maiden but then again six of her seven rivals have yet to win over timber and she can finally come good in this marathon. Beaten three lengths by Quistaquay at Towcester last month on her return, Terry Casey's mare took minor honours behind Supreme Charm at Ascot (soft) and she was runner-up in a three-miler last term. **Esperanza IV** is the only hurdles winner in the line-up, staying on strongly over the Towcester three miles to score by nine lengths and she has as good a chance as any on that display. Her most recent run, pulled up when tailed off at Newbury, is far from encouraging, however. **Unsinkable Boxer** landed a Tipperary bumper in 1994. He ran third in both starts last term, the latest behind Stormy Passage at Newbury in February, and he will be fit enough for this opening run, coming from Martin Pipe's yard. **Miss Secret** did not do badly for a first run of the season when fourth to Relative Chance at Sandown four weeks ago. Selection: MAYLIN MAGIC

HUNTINGDON

HYPERION
12.30 Auburn Boy 1.00 Garethson 1.30 Flying On 2.00 Get Real 2.30 Namoodaj 3.00 The Toiseach (nb) 3.30 Squaddie

GOING: Chase course - Good. Hurdle course - Good, Good to Soft in places).

● Right-hand, level course. Run-in 200yd.

● Racecourse is at junction of A1 and A604. Huntingdon station (service from London, King's Cross) 1m. **ADMISSION:** Members £12; Paddock £8, Course £4. **CAR PARK:** Picnic area £1; remainder free.

● **LEADING TRAINERS:** K Bailey 23-66 (34.8%), J Gifford 15-69 (23.2%), G Hubbard 13-59 (22%), Mrs M Reveley 11-35 (31.4%).

● **LEADING JOCKEYS:** R Dunwoody 16-84 (19%), D Bridgwater 11-62 (17.7%), A Maguire 11-72 (15.3%), M A Fitzgerald 9-74 (12.2%).

FAVOURITES: 209-482 (43.2%).

VISORED FIRST TIME: Cointosser (12.30) (visored), Via Del Quatro (1.00) (visored), Grosvenor Heath (1.0).

12.30 CHRISTMAS PARTY CLAIMING HDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 110yds

1	-24044	SHAHRANI (10) (D) M Pipe 5 11 3	C Maude
2	/22-0P	HIGHBANK (21) (D) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 0	G Lee (3)
3	6P6	URGENT REPLY (22) C Dwyer 4 11 0	D Bridgwater
4	0P-0	ARTIC MEADOW (17) A Jessop 6 10 12	B Clifford
5	0	CINNAMON STICK (10) P Felgate 4 10 11	Mr M Mackley (7)
6	1P2431	AUBURN BOY (35) (D) I Williams 10 10 8	P Carberry
7		BOBBY'S DREAM (F58) M Tompkins 5 10 6	R Thornton (3)
8	3U262F	GIMME (47) (CD) J O'Shea 7 10 5	Michael Brennan (3) V
9	-33431	COINTOSSER (22) (D) K Morgan 4 10 3	A S Smith V

– 9 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Auburn Boy, 7-2 Shahrani, Cointosser, 4-1 Highbank, 8-1 Gimme, 14-1 Urgent Reply, 16-1 Bobby's Dream, 33-1 others

1.00 HUGH ROSSELLI MEMORIAL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 3m

1	/4002-	CAMERA MAN (207) N Henderson 7 11 0	M A Fitzgerald
2	/4P4-P	CLARKES GORSE (18) (D) J Gifford 6 11 0	P Hide
3	40P-22	ELY'S HARBOUR (13) O Sherwood 6 11 0	J A McCarthy
4	/3233-	GARETHSON (267) (D) (BF) Miss H Knight 6 11 0	J Culloty
5	P	GROSVENOR HEATH (NZ) (12) A Barrow 9 11 0	Mr O McPhail (7) B
6	50-63P	JAVELIN COOL (14) G Hubbard 6 11 0	Michael Brennan (3)
7	00P0/	LANLAU (991) T George 8 11 0	D J Kavanagh (5)
8	/5422-	MAJORS LEGACY (284) (D) T Forster 8 11 0	A Thornton
9	P2P1F/	OPUS WINWOOD (633) (D) K Comerford 9 11 0	P Carberry
10	2P323/	OVER THE CORRIB (623) (D) J Curtis 7 11 0	R Thornton (3)
11	P31/0-	PERRYMAN (234) (D) K Bailey 6 11 0	Mr R Wakley (5)
12	04/	TEETON THOMAS (660) Mrs P Robeson 8 11 0	D Byrne
13	00/P-P	WEEKEND WORKER (11) T Keddy 6 11 0	Guy Lewis (3)
14	P-2035	VIA DEL QUATRO (13) (D) J Mullins 5 10 8	S Curran V

– 14 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Ely's Harbour, 7-2 Majors Legacy, 9-2 Camera Man, Garethson, 7-1 Clarkes Gorse, 10-1 Javelin Cool, 16-1 Perryman, Via Del Quatro, 20-1 others

1.30 ROBERT BAKER HALF CENTURY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 110yds

1	4P-31	GINGER FOX (19) (D) Mrs J Pitman 4 11 5	R Farrant
2	P	BUZZARDS BELLBUOY (17) R Smith 8 10 12	X Aizpuru (5)
3	P/	EXECUTIVE KING (961) G Hubbard 6 10 12	Michael Brennan (3)
4	3	FLYING ON (41) (BF) J Gifford 5 10 12	P Hide
5	0-03	FOLDING (8) Mrs A Barclay 6 10 12	J Goldstein (7)
6	0	GENERAL ACADEMY (15) J Curtis 4 10 12	A Thornton
7		GO BRITANNIA (F52) F Jordan 4 10 12	D Byrne
8	0	KATATONIC (15) Mrs L Jewell 4 10 12	G Hogan (3)
9		KING KATO (F111) Mrs A Perrett 4 10 12	M A Fitzgerald
10		KUALA LIPIS (F65) P Cole 4 10 12	R Dunwoody
11		LEAD STORY (F522) M Banks 4 10 12	I Lawrence
12	6	MOUNTGATE (26) M Bielby 5 10 12	J Culloty
13		MR SPEAKER (F41) G Bravery 4 10 12	R Thornton (3)
14		MR SPECULATOR (F49) J Spearing 4 10 12	D J Kavanagh (5)
15		PIN MONY Mrs S Smith 5 10 12	R Wilkinson (5)
16	F	ROAD RACER (5) P R Webber 4 10 12	J A McCarthy
17	01/	SIR TURTLE (913) (D) R Rowe 7 10 12	D Bridgwater
18		*SOUND OF THUNDER (F1207) J Pearce 5 10 12*	*P Carberry*
19	0	URGENT SWIFT (47) M Pitman 4 10 12	R Johnson
20		YOUNG SPARTACUS T Forster 4 10 12	S Wynne
21	006-0	COROMANDEL (24) A H Harvey 5 10 7	A S Smith
22	251/	GANPATI (558) (D) N Twiston-Davies 6 10 7	T Jenks

– 22 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Ginger Fox, 11-2 Kuala Lipis, 7-1 Flying On, 8-1 King Kato, 12-1 Young Spartacus, 14-1 Mountgate, Road Racer, Sir Turtle, 20-1 others

2.00 SIR PETER CROSSMAN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 110yds

1	/654-1	GET REAL (15) (D) N Henderson 6 11 10	M A Fitzgerald
2	20-421	ROYAL EVENT (6) (D) D Gandolfo 6 11 10 (7ex)	R Dunwoody
3	324350	VERDE LUNA (12) (D) R Smith 5 11 0	X Aizpuru (5)
4	31F5P4	FENWICK'S BROTHER (15) (D) Mrs S Smith 7 10 5	R Wilkinson (5)
5	00-F	GEORGETOWN (18) J Gifford 6 10 1	P Hide
6	-042F4	APPEARANCE MONEY (17) (D) (BF) F Murphy 6 10 0	P Carberry
7	0P/50-	VENDOON (375) (D) M Heaton-Ellis 7 10 0	D Bridgwater
8	3430-4	DESERT CALM (12) D McCain 8 10 0	V Slattery

– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights. Vendoon 9st 13lb. Desert Calm 8st 7lb

BETTING: evens Get Real, 3-1 Royal Event, 6-1 Fenwick's Brother, Appearance Money, 16-1 Verde Luna, Georgetown, 25-1 Desert Calm, 33-1 Vendoon

2.30 WOOLLEY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 110yds

1	101-10	DESERT MOUNTAIN (23) (D) (BF) N Callaghan 4 12 0	P Carberry
2	212-33	BARFORD SOVEREIGN (14) (C) (D) J Fanshawe 5 11 10	R Dunwoody
3	11F60-	SERENUS (271) (D) N Henderson 4 11 4	M A Fitzgerald
4	60-11	NAMOODAJ (17) (D) D Nicholson 4 11 2	R Johnson
5	344-43	MAZZINI (13) (D) R Rowe 6 10 2	D Bridgwater
6	4021F0	WAMDHA (14) (CD) K Morgan 7 10 0	A S Smith
7	323P/P	BARELY BLACK (11) N Babbage 9 10 0	M Keighley (7)

– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Barely Black 8st 7lb

BETTING: 15-8 Namoodaj, 11-4 Desert Mountain, 4-1 Barford Sovereign, 13-2 Serenus, 8-1 Mazzini, Wamdha, 50-1 Barely Black

3.00 BARHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 4f 110yds

1	1212-1	THE TOISEACH (24) (CD) J Fanshawe 6 12 0	R Thornton
2	23221-	JUDICIAL FIELD (290) (D) N Tinkler 8 11 9	Sophie Mitchell B
3	11F12-	GAELIC BLUE (224) (D) (BF) Mrs S Smith 7 11 6	R Wilkinson
4	0331-3	SELATAN (11) (D) D Gandolfo 5 11 1	G Hogan
5	6324P-	DOLIKOS (255) (CD) T Caldwell 10 10 11	Michael Brennan

– 5 declared –

BETTING: 11-8 The Toiseach, 5-2 Gaelic Blue, 3-1 Judicial Field, 7-1 Selatan, 14-1 Dolikos

3.30 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds

1	1-1	CONCHOBOR (27) (D) K Bailey 5 12 0	W Walsh (7)
2	0	AIRBOURNE PRINCE (21) N Babbage 5 11 4	S Fowler (7)
3	0-	BERTIE BAVARD (251) G Johnson Houghton 5 11 4	Miss E Johnson Houghton
4		COOLAW F Murphy 4 11 4	Mr P Murphy (7)
5		DANCING LAIRD K Bailey 5 11 4	Mr E Byrne (7)
6	00/	DESLA'S DEVIL (558) J Smith 5 11 4	O Burrows (5)
7		EAGLE STORM P Channings 4 11 4	P Henley (3)
8		HIGHFIELD GENT M Wilkinson 4 11 4	G Bazin (7)
9		LANDCRUISER C Allen 5 11 4	Mr O McPhail (7)
10		LITTLE MILLER C Brooks 4 11 4	M Berry (7)
11		NOR'S CASH FOR FUN H Collingridge 4 11 4	Michael Brennan (3)
12		PROLIFIC AGENCY F Murphy 4 11 4	G Lee (3)
13	0-	PURE SWING (270) J Pearce 4 11 4	T Descombe
14	0	RETURN OF THE MAC (10) M R Bosley 5 11 4	R Studholme (7)
15	0	SALFORD QUAY (28) Mrs J Pitman 4 11 4	R Garrard (7)
16		SMITH'S PERK Mrs J Pitman 4 11 4	G Hogan (3)
17	32-5	SQUADDIE (30) J W Payne 5 11 4	R Thornton (3)
18	0	QUEEN'S CHARTER (20) N Twiston-Davies 4 10 13	J Goldstein (7)

– 18 declared –

BETTING: 4-6 Conchobor, 7-1 Dancing Laird, 10-1 Little Miller, Smith's Perk, Squaddie, 12-1 Prolific Agency, Salford Quay, 20-1 others

SEDGEFIELD

HYPERION
12.20 Charley Lambert 12.50 Jills Joy 1.20 Galen 1.50 Tudor Fellow 2.20 UK Hygiene 2.50 Dragons Bay 3.20 Soldier Mak

GOING: Good.

● Left-hand, undulating course. Easy fences and long run-in on chase course of 500yd.

● Racecourse is 1m SE of town near junction of A689 and A177. Bus service from Stockton station (3m) or Durham station (12m). **ADMISSION:** Paddock £8 (OAPs £4). Course £2. **CAR PARK:** Paddock £2, rest free.

● **LEADING TRAINERS:** Mrs M Reveley 67-230 (29.1%), G M Moore 19-111 (17.1%), J Howard Johnson 19-158 (12%), J Wade 15-157 (9.6%).

● **LEADING JOCKEYS:** L Wyer 21-103 (20.4%), J Supple 14-72 (19.4%), J Callaghan 14-96 (14.6%), N Smith 13-88 (14.8%)

● **FAVOURITES:** 218-574 (38%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Seldom But Severe (1.50), Crabbie's Pride (3.20) (visored)

12.20 GOLDEN LION 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

1	P0-F12	CHARLEY LAMBERT (20) J Mackie 6 11 5	E Husband (3)
2	153P 1	THE KHOINOA (8) Mrs A Swinbank 7 11 5	J Supple
3	0660-U	AIR BRIDGE (30) R Whitaker 5 10 12	D Bentley
4	0-5	ANGRY NATIVE (31) J Wade 5 10 12	S Taylor (5)
5	45-0	COUNT KARMUSKI (30) F Murphy 5 10 12	E Callaghan
6	004-	DONNYBROOK (220) R Woodhouse 4 10 12	W Dwan
7	6-0	RONNIES WEDDING (11) T Laxton 5 10 12	G F Ryan (5)
8	32P0.0	RON ON THE RUN (30) J J Quinn 7 10 12	L Wyer
9	0-6342	RUN FOR THE MILL (12) J Jefferson 5 10 12	A K Smith (7)
10	5/04-	THE MICKLETONIAN (249) C Grant 6 10 12	P Niven
11	0005-0	BROOK HOUSE (28) B Bousfield 6 10 7	B Storey

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 15-8 Charley Lambert, 9-4 The Khoinoa, 6-1 Run For The Mill, 10-1 Donnybrook, 12-1 Air Bridge, Count Karmuski, 20-1 others

12.50 GOLDEN LION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

1	0-010	MILL-DOT (12) F Murtagh 5 11 5	B Storey
2	3BP-63	BASINCROFT (32) Miss S Williamson 7 10 12	J Supple
3	00/05	COOLTON HILL (32) J Wade 6 10 12	S Taylor (5)
4	2032/	DAVID'S WAY (610) M Pell 8 10 12	D Bentley
5	00033-	HANDSOME ANTHONY (207) G M Moore 6 10 12	J Callaghan
6	432F0-	JILLS JOY (325) A Streeter 6 10 12	T Eley
7	0000-4	JO LIGHTNING (31) B Ellison 4 10 12	D Parker
8		MASTER WOOD C Grant 6 10 12	R Garritty
9	2-0	YOUNG TOMO (21) J Howard Johnson 5 10 12	E Callaghan
10	00-4	LAST ACTION (87) J Norton 4 10 7	B Grattan (5)
11		THIRKLEBY SKEENA P Beaumont 6 10 7	R Supple

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Handsome Anthony, 5-1 Thirkleby Skeena, 13-2 Mill-Dot, Young Tomo, 8-1 Basincroft, David's Way, Jills Joy, 10-1 others

1.20 DICKIE DODS MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3m 3f 110yds

1	10550	ZAMHAREER (23) W Storey 6 11 10	I Jardine (7)
2	F4-244	SCARBA (21) (BF) J Jefferson 9 11 8	E Callaghan
3	0/6-51	KINDA GROOVY (45) (C) I Park 8 10 12	N Smith B
4	63-251	GALEN (19) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 11	P Niven B
5	33/321	SAUCY NUN (17) (C) P Hiatt 5 10 7	E Husband (3)
6	530-11	ITS GRAND (14) W G M Turner 8 10 2	J Power (7)

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 11-8 Galen, 11-4 Kinda Groovy, 4-1 Saucy Nun, 6-1 Scarba, 8-1 Its Grand, 14-1 Zamhareer

1.50 NAGS HEAD MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 3f

1	46F5-5	ALLERBANK (23) Mrs J Storey 6 11 5	Mr C Storey
2	4P6-05	CLONROCHE LUCKY (26) J Wade 7 11 5	S Taylor (5) B
3	6324-U	DESPERATE DAYS (17) F Kirby 8 11 5	W Dwan
4	35U-04	FUNNY YE KNOW (16) F Murtagh 8 11 5	E Callaghan
5	22-22F	GIVEMEYOURHAND (8) J Charlton 8 11 5	B Storey
6	/350-5	LORD PAT (32) Miss M Milligan 6 11 5	D Parker
7	/52FP-	NOOSA SOUND (285) L Lungo 7 11 5	R Supple
8	6P35-P	SELDOM BUT SEVERE (17) E Elliott 7 11 5	J Callaghan B
9	0-	THE WASP (283) J Howard Johnson 5 11 5	Mr C Bonner (3)
10	40/422	TUDOR FELLOW (17) J Wade 8 11 5	K Johnson
11	30-0P3	WEAVER SQUARE (26) P Eccles 8 11 5	P Niven
12	0/F0-5	GAME POINT (45) D Lamb 8 11 0	J Burke

– 12 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Tudor Fellow, 9-2 Givemeyourhand, 6-1 Funny Ye Know, 7-1 Noosa Sound, 8-1 Lord Pat, 12-1 Desperate Days, Seldom But Severe, 14-1 others

2.20 HARDWICK ARMS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 110yds

1	4F-222	GOLDEN HELLO (17) (D) T Easterby 6 12 0	L Wyer
2	4/324-	DUAL IMAGE (289) (D) J FitzGerald 10 11 12	F Leahy (3)
3	/12-33	BRIAR'S DELIGHT (27) (C) (D) (BF) R Allan 9 11 5	B Storey V
4	U233-1	VAL DE RAMA (28) (CD) D Smith 8 11 1	P Niven
5	42-3P4	UK HYGIENE (10) (D) M Hammond 7 10 0	Mr C Bonner (3)
6	02P-3F	WHITEGATES WILLIE (59) J Howard Johnson 5 10 0	D Parker
7	60402-	SUPER SANDY (213) (D) F Watson 10 10 0	K Johnson
8	P-0U40	GONE ASHORE (19) (D) M Barnes 6 10 0	S Taylor (5)

– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Whitegates Willie 9st 10lb, Super Sandy 9st 7lb. Gone Ashore 9st 5lb

BETTING: 11-4 Val de Rama, 3-1 Golden Hello, 9-2 Briar's Delight, 6-1 Dual Image, 7-1 Uk Hygiene, Whitegates Willie, Super Sandy, 33-1 Gone Ashore

2.50 HOPE INN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 5f

1	/UU22-	WINTER BELLE (347) J Howard Johnson 9 11 10	Mr C Bonner (3)
2	1533-3	BOLD ACCOUNT (29) G M Moore 7 11 7	B Storey B
3	5540-1	JUKE BOX BILLY (32) (CD) Mrs J Brown 9 11 7	E Callaghan
4	1-U363	CUMBERLAND BLUES (19) A J Lockwood 8 11 2	Miss A Deniel
5	P-53UU	OLE OLE (19) (CD) Mrs E Moscrop 11 10 11	P Niven
6	40-544	MOVAC (38) (D) Miss L Russell 8 10 4	Mr M Bradburne (7)
7	-3SP04	WILD BROOK (19) B Ellison 7 10 3	D Parker
8	RP56-P	MONAUGHTY MAN (6) (D) E Cane 11 10 1	W Dwan
9	3516-5	CORBLEU (15) S Bell 7 10 1	K Johnson
10	3PP-6	DRAGONS BAY (15) Mrs M Reveley 8 10 0	N Smith

– 10 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Dragons Bay 9st 13lb.

BETTING: 3-1 Bold Account, 4-1 Winter Belle, Juke Box Billy, 5-1 Movac, 8-1 Cumberland Blues, Wild Brook, Dragons Bay, 12-1 others

3.20 DUN COW NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

1	35-2/6	THUNDERPOINT (28) (CD) T Easterby 5 12 0	L Wyer
2	-2112	NOBLE TOM (10) (BF) P Eccles 5 11 8	Mr B Hassett (7)
3	-1222	PENTLAND SQUIRE (19) (D) J Jefferson 6 11 8	A K Smith (7)
4	0-2323	SOLDIER MAK (10) J Mackie 4 11 1	E Husband (3)
5	3F-532	BAHER (6) S Clark 8 11 0	Miss R Clark (5)
6	P23-00	CRABBIE'S PRIDE (12) M Meagher 4 10 3	B Storey V
7	446-P0	BAASM (17) J Norton 4 10 2	E Callaghan
8	0PP-0	BALLYKISSANGEL (17) N Bycroft 4 10 0	R Supple

– 8 declared –

Minimum weight 10st. True handicap weight: Ballykissangel 8st 13lb.

BETTING: 11-4 Noble Tom, 3-1 Thunderpoint, 7-2 Pentland Squire, 5-1 Soldier Mak, 6-1 Baher, 8-1 Crabbie's Pride, 14-1 Baasm, 33 Ballykissangel

هكذا من الأصل

England's new style means Back's time has finally come

ALAN WATKINS

ON RUGBY

The announcement of England's team to play New Zealand was delayed by the coach, Clive Woodward, quite rightly so. But it was too late for me to comment on last week. Both Woodward and the England manager, Roger Uttley, are fond of saying that it is easy to be wise after the event and that hindsight is always perfect. This is not entirely fair to us observers. Sometimes I was right at the time, sometimes wrong.

After Woodward had announced his team, I was almost certainly wrong. I should have chosen Tim Stimpson at full-back, John Bentley and Adedayo Adebayo on the wings, Nick Greenstock at outside-centre and Matt Dawson at scrum-half.

Among the forwards, Mark Regan would have come in as hooker and someone else – I was not sure precisely who, but someone – instead of Darren Garforth at tight head.

Admittedly three of my selections, Stimpson, Dawson and Regan, put in an appearance among Saturday's heroes, arriving from the substitutes' bench. It may be, for one can never be certain about these things, that my selection would just have contrived to beat the All Blacks. Somehow I doubt it.

My hypothetical discards all had tremendous matches. Certainly the backs did. Matt Perry saved at least one try. Phil de Glanville did everything that was asked of him. Kyran Bracken's quickly-tapped penalties caused the New Zealand disintegration in the first half. Rees and Austin Healey turned out to be the sharpest pair of wings England have produced in years.

There is an English tradition of having an illusive wing such as Peter Jackson or the under-estimated Dickie Guest on the right and a more direct customer such as Peter Thompson or Rory Underwood on the left. In the present England team the sides have been reversed, with the more fundamentalist Rees on the right (where he prefers to be, having played previously for England on the left).

The question is: where is Healey now going to play in the Leicester side? He switched from wing to scrum-half when he was at Orrell in the 1995-96 season. He came to Leicester as a scrum-half to replace Aadel Kardooni, who is now with Bedford.

Leicester's Director of Rugby, Bob Dwyer, has recently played Healey in his old position, with the Fijian Waisele Serevi, normally an illusive outside-half, at scrum-half. From Serevi's point of view – and from Dwyer's as well – this experiment did not prove an unqualified success when Leicester met Bath at Welford Road earlier in the season. Does anyone, by the way, still remember club matches after the last four weeks?

Dwyer must surely be inclined to restore Healey to the position he was hired to fill. But this is not in England's interest. It is certainly not in Healey's. There is no one more likely to win fewer caps then he deserves than the versatile player. Usually the player who suffers for this reason is someone who can switch between lock, No 6 and No 8. It is rare in the modern game to find a wing who can play scrum-half, and vice-versa.

But international backs have to specialise. They must be familiar with those lines of running and angles of attack about which we hear so much these days. Does Woodward, himself a former Leicester player, now politely ask Dwyer to pick Healey as a wing? And, if he does, what does Dwyer say to Woodward? I leave it at that.

In the back row my selection would have been the same as Woodward's. There is no hindsight on my part there. This maybe hard on Tony Diprose, Chris Sheasby and Tim Rodber, and on the forgotten Ben Clarke too, but Woodward has now put together one of the fastest trios in the world.

The difference between his regime and those of his two predecessors, Jack Rowell and Geoff Cooke, is that, while they would field whenever possible a back row consisting entirely of No 8's, he has chosen one of No 7s for Lawrence Dallaglio has often played in this position for Wasps. Woodward has done this without any substantial sacrifice of size. Both Richard Hill and Dallaglio are solid citizens, tall for their age as well.

I am particularly delighted by the success of Neil Back. He will give encouragement to thousands of schoolboys who are not going to reach six feet but whose natural position is open-side flanker. And he has met so many setbacks in his career that it is pleasant to see him prospering at last.

His success has been the consequence of the change in England's style. This depends on keeping the ball in the hand and refusing to commit too many forwards to the breakdown. Styles can alter. Fashions may change. Luckily for Back, he has in rugby terms lived long enough to see his hour come at last. I am glad about this, even though I still think he got off far too lightly for jostling the referee as he did after Bath's win over Leicester in the 1996 Pilkington Cup.

Woodward's imaginative leadership challenges the necessity of change

If England's four-week Test series against the southern hemisphere heavyweights was an exercise in sporting suicide, last weekend's Twickenham finale provided incontrovertible proof of the existence of life after death. While applauding the national team's reincarnation as a trail-blazing band of 21st century total rugby addicts, there may be upheavals ahead.

BY CHRIS HEWETT

Paul Grayson's third and equalising penalty nine minutes from the end of Saturday's phenomenal England-New Zealand extravaganza at Twickenham was always likely to bring the house down and sure enough, the roar of acclamation travelled the soundwaves from Richmond to Auckland via Johannesburg, Durban, Sydney and every other rugby town that matters south of the equator. Yet the cheers were almost drowned out by the rush of a force 10 gale emanating from the boardrooms of the 24 Premiership clubs. The sighs of relief would have blown Jonah Lomu clean off his feet.

"Thank God for that," said one high-profile Premiership director of rugby. "We've shown we can live with one of the great All Black sides and managed it with players who have come through the club system, so perhaps we'll hear a bit less about restructuring, second tiers and bloody divisional rugby." Don't bet on it, old bean. The immense progress achieved by Clive Woodward over the undulating course of his first four Tests at the England helm may soon be undermined by yet another outbreak of bloodshed in the corridors of power.

According to the coach himself, England's structure is not so much flawed as laughable. There is, he says, nowhere near enough English talent on regular display in the shop window provided by the clubs. (Quite right too. It is sheer lunacy that 50 per cent of the playing population of the Premiership should be unavailable to the national selectors. In New Zealand, John Hart has the choice of all but half a dozen Super 12 combatants).

What is more, Woodward continues, the strictly limited number of England-qualified players who can guarantee themselves first-team rugby are not performing at a sufficiently high level to enlighten the national selectors as to their Test calibre. Hence the "second tier" theory and while Woodward avoids the phrase "divisional rugby" like the plague – and with good reason, given its wretched history – that is precisely what he is talking about.

So too is Fran Cotton, once a hallowed folk hero of the England front row but now, in his latest guise as vice-chairman of the Rugby Football Union's management board, the professional clubs' No 2 bogeyman. (Bogeyman No 1 is, of course, Cliff Brittle, Cotton's chairman and bosom pal). Their preferred option is to hijack the European scene, either by fielding regional teams in the existing (and hugely successful) Heineken Cup or abandoning the competition altogether in favour of a provincial Super 12 lookalike.

Both possibilities amount to worst-case scenarios for the clubs, whose power and prestige would be fatally diminished. Would Heineken, Allied Dunbar and Carlsberg-Tetley continue to pump money into club competitions if all the meaningful action was taking place on a provincial stage? Certainly not. By the same yardstick, would the supporters leave their winter firesides to watch the South-West tackle a Midi-Pyrenees Select at a threequarters-empty soccer stadium in Bristol? We all know the answer to that one.

To make matters more combustible still, Woodward is now talking about luring any bright young things that might catch his eye in rugby league, slapping a contract in front of them and loaning them out to the clubs for a bit of work experience. The idea has its merits, as anyone who witnessed Gary Connolly's performances for Harlequins last season might testify. But will the clubs play ball as they watch their pre-eminent position in England's rugby landscape being undermined by the Twickenham regionalists? We know the answer to that one, too.

The message of the last four weeks is a profound, yet incredibly simple one: that individuals make things happen, not committees. Woodward himself has demonstrated that a coach with bold, imaginative ideas and the courage to play the game on a broad canvas can equal and, at times, even better the best. You want proof? Look at the back row, where intuitive selection has presented England with their most gifted breakaway unit since Roger Uttley, Tony Neary and John Scott hit the mountain tops almost two decades ago.

Woodward has also given Austin Healey the chance to make a real name for himself as an international wing and when the injury backlog clears, he will offer the same opportunity to Mike Catt at outside centre. As for the alleged shortage of new talent, where the hell did Matt Perry and David Rees spring from? Their selections were so far out of left field that it was impossible to see them coming without the aid of binoculars.

Three years ago, Laurie Mains made All Blacks of Lomu, Josh Kronfeld, Andrew Mehrtens and Glen Osborne at a time when their own families were having difficulty recognising them. Woodward, bolstered by John Mitchell's hard edge and Phil Larder's genius for defensive organisation, has managed something comparable.

Which is more than can be said for the Celtic nations, who look less like second-class citizens than disenfranchised refugees shambling from one soup kitchen to another.

The slaughters inflicted by sundry All Blacks, Wallabies and Springboks on the fields of Dublin and Edinburgh confirmed, if confirmation were needed, that neither Ireland nor Scotland could even begin to hope for anything better than a quarter-final place in the 1999 World Cup. Divisional or provincial rugby for England? Ask Richie Dixon and Brian Ashton about it.

Wales were also on the receiving end of an All Black hiding, although adventurous choices in the back row (come in Colin Charvis and Scott Quinnell) and at half-back (come in Arwel Thomas) would give them a puncher's chance of gatecrashing the England-France private party in this season's Five Nations. It is, however, true to say that English rugby has more to fear from its own administrators than anything that may be stirring on the far side of the Severn Bridge. Tread carefully, Clive.

Matt Perry proved that new English talent can emerge despite reservations about the system Photograph: David Ashdown

Old comrades turned rival Blues fully prepared to exploit showcase

As rugby union hurtles into the the professional world the Varsity match remains one of the last bastions of the amateur game. But amid the rugger buggers at Twickenham today *David Llewellyn* finds two young men chasing a dream of professionalism.

Take two men, one an aspiring solicitor, the other in the foothills of a medical career and ask them what they would like to do when they leave university and you might be surprised.

While the majority of the twentysomethings who step out at Twickenham today for the Varsity match will regard it as the pinnacle of their personal rugby mountain, at least two players, one on each side, have a very different view.

Cambridge University's centre, Mark Denney, is currently reading Law at St Edmund's College with the intention of becoming a solicitor; Oxford University's tight-head prop, Adam Reuben, is studying for a Diploma in Medical Studies, having graduated MBChB from Bristol University, he still has to complete his two pre-registration jobs as a surgical and medical house officer.

Both professions have carefully structured career paths; both have entailed long and demanding academic study in very competitive fields; it is unthinkable that anyone would do more than contemplate putting the promise of such jobs for life on to the back-burner.

But that is what Denney and Reuben hope to do. Both men are keen to dip their toes in professional rugby and are prepared to tread water as far as their 'real' careers are concerned. So for these two former Bristol University team-mates this afternoon's tussle for the Bowring Bowl represents a gilt-edged opportunity to turn the headquarters of English rugby into a showcase, a shop window in which to parade their skills for anyone who might be interested.

Neither plans to dive head-first into the game's murky professional waters, however. They would both prefer to compromise by becoming part-time players, thus allowing them the opportunity to stay in touch with the real world, which is where their long-term ambitions lie.

Denney has already tasted pay-for-play as a professional with Bristol and he is fairly dismissive of it. "I've really enjoyed coming back into amateur rugby from the professional game," says the 22-year-old History graduate. "At least I'm no longer sitting around for long periods of the day wondering what I'm going to do next."

Reuben too has had a sniff of the pro game, albeit with differing views.

"Before I came up to Oxford I was with Cardiff for a couple of months; it was only pre-season, when a couple of their props were unavailable for various reasons, but I was paid, and I played in the match against Brive and I enjoyed the life, what little I saw of it.

"Cardiff have encouraged me to stay in touch and see how things are after Christmas but with the depth they have – they have four international props – I'd be reluctant to go back just to play second team rugby or sit on the bench."

Denney still has two years of Law followed by a further 12 months at Law School, he has holiday work lined up and while he says the firm are sympathetic he knows he has to be pragmatic. "There is a certain challenge off the field, which is that I have to accommodate and combine these two careers. Playing rugby as a part-time professional would be ideal," he admits.

For Reuben, two years Denney's senior, things are not so clear-cut. He cannot postpone his pre-registration year for much longer. He has to find a balance. "I've spent five years at med school and I wouldn't want to think that I've done all that for nothing. Anyway I certainly would not tie myself permanently to professional rugby," he said.

He could ask his scrum-half Dr Niall Hogan for advice, but says: "Niall has already done his pre-registration. He is at a different stage, although I think he intends putting his medical career on the back burner while he establishes himself as Ireland's first choice.

"My plan at the moment is to do my house jobs next year. Of course if I do that then I will have to give up rugby during that time, because it is not possible to continue playing a decent standard of rugby when, as a house officer, you are working for 80, 90 or a 100 hours a week. Ideally I would like to go part-time and at least combine some degree of medical studies with a professional rugby career."

Denney voices the mission: "It is just a case of finding a club that is prepared to work along those lines. I doubt very much if I will be going back to Bristol. They haven't contacted me at all this year."

And so to the means to that end. Finding the club. Reuben says, quite candidly: "I am hoping the Varsity match will be a showcase for me."

Denney agrees, adding: "I regard the Varsity match very much as an opportunity for me to show what I can do."

Today all 30 – and the replacements – will want to show what they can do in front of a sell-out 75,000 crowd.

Cambridge, winners for the last three years and with an overall superiority of 54 wins to Oxford's 48, are favourites to repeat the feat, and with nine old Blues in the side that is understandable. But the Dark Blues are no mugs this year. They have half a dozen old hands themselves and a pack of awesome potential. The Light Blues have a talented set of threequarters and, with a competitive and skilful back-row, are adept at getting the ball out to them.

Both captains promise an expansive game. Denney and Reuben, among others, will be looking to expand their horizons.

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

at Twickenham

R Maher*	University, capt	15	P Surridge*	Hughes Hall
N Booth	Worcester	14	N Waine*	St Catharine's
N Larsen	Lincoln	13	M Robinson	Hughes Hall
B Rudge	Keble	12	M Denney	St Edmund's
R Pollock	Keble	11	N Hill*	St Edmund's
T Jensen*	St Anne's	10	R Ashforth*	Peterhouse
N Hogan*	Merton	9	R Elliott	St Edmund's
R Lehner	St Anne's	1	G Reynolds*	Hughes Hall
M Collard	St Anne's	2	T Murphy*	St Edmund's, capt
A Reuben	University	3	M Foulds	Sidney Sussex
T Eisenhauer*	St Anne's	4	R Bramley*	St Edmund's
A Roberts	New	5	A Craig*	Hughes Hall
M Orsler*	Christ Church	6	M Hyde*	St Edmund's
K Spicer*	St Anne's	8	J Cocks	St Edmund's
D Kelaher	St Cross	7	H Whitford	Homerton

*denotes Blue

Kick-off: 2.0 (ITV)

FOOTBALL

Wimbledon may go back to south-west London

Wimbledon look set for a return to south-west London after a council feasibility study will give the Dons clearance to move into the greyhound stadium near their former Plough Lane ground.

Sam Hammam, one of Wimbledon's owners, had responded to a demonstration by fans opposed to a proposal to move to Dublin by calling on them to lobby Merton council.

He labelled council leaders as "callous and cowardly", saying he was looking into the move to Ireland out of "frustration and hopelessness" at their refusal to help the club find a new ground on their home patch for the past 19 years.

But a council spokesman said yesterday that Wimbledon had never submitted a full planning application for a new ground to them. He said: "We are working with Sam Hammam and we do want a resolution to the situation.

"It is not the council's role or responsibility to build a new stadium for Wimbledon Football Club. We have no money to do that but if they identify a possible site, we will do all we can to see if it is suitable for a stadium."

Council leader Mike Brunt, who only took up his position in May and is a Wimbledon supporter who has watched the club from the terraces for the past 20 years, met Hammam two weeks ago and another meeting is lined up soon. On their agenda will be the results of a study into a redevelopment of the greyhound stadium into an all-purpose ground featuring Premiership football and greyhound racing.

There was more uncertainty for the club yesterday with the news that Peter Reid wants Wimbledon's midfielder Robbie Earle to lead Sunderland's promotion push and is ready to make an offer of over £1m.

Aston Villa have admitted that some of the food they donated to orphans during the recent trip to Romania to play Steaua Bucharest in the Uefa Cup was past its sell-by date – but insist it was still safe to eat.

The Villa chairman, Doug Ellis presented a consignment of tinned food to an orphanage, but a Villa spokesman admitted yesterday: "Some of the cans had gone slightly past their sell-date – but they were still perfectly edible.

"Our suppliers have informed us that it is common practice for companies to donate tinned products to charities and other worthy causes as long as the canned food is still OK."

The club are to hold a collection for the orphans at Villa Park tonight. A collection on Villa's return flight from Romania a fortnight ago raised £1,200.

Terry Venables is expected to hear today whether he has been chosen to coach Nigeria in next year's World Cup finals although he said before departing with Australia for the Confederation Cup in Saudi Arabia that he had had no contact with the Nigerian Football Association.

Keith Branagan, the Bolton goalkeeper, may need a hernia operation after aggravating a long-standing problem in Saturday's defeat at Ewood Park.

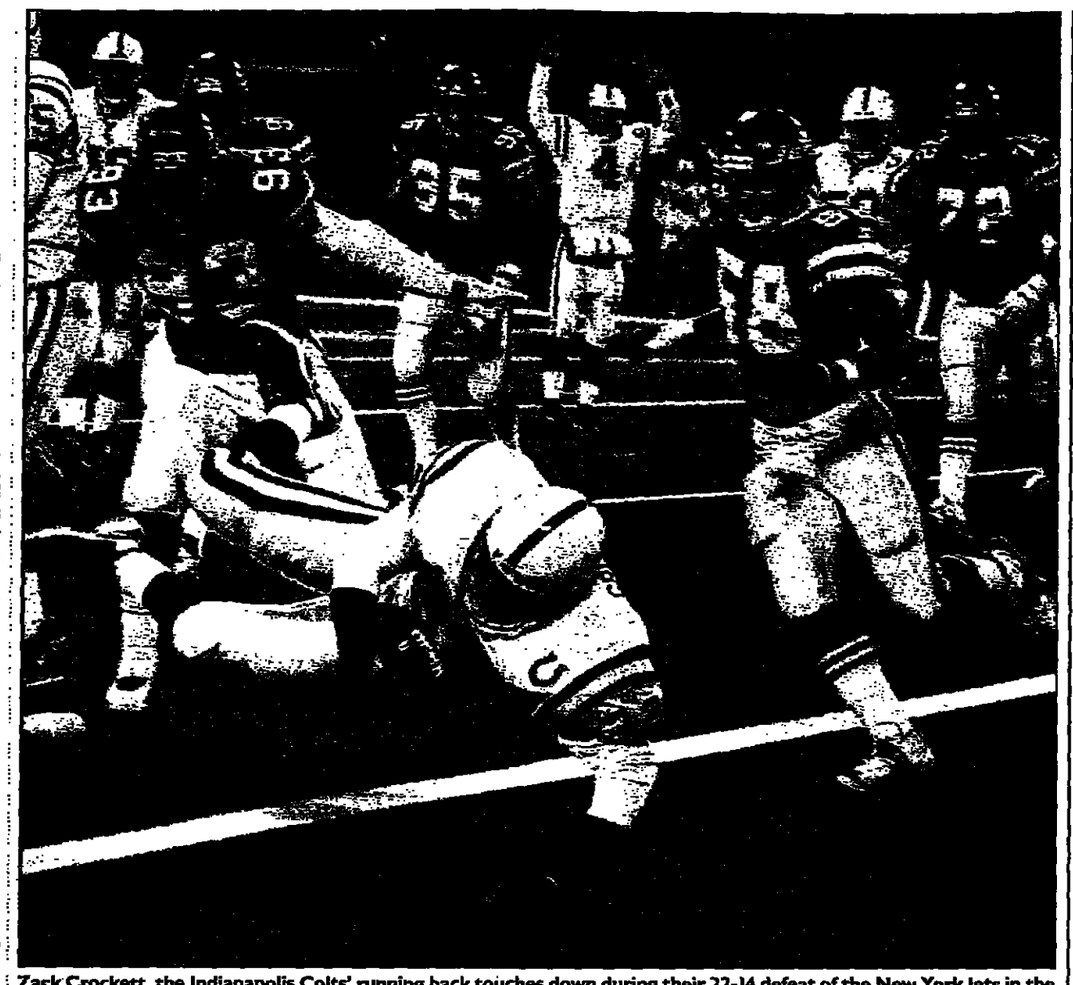
Blackburn have turned down a transfer request from midfielder Lars Bohinen, who is concerned that his lack of first-team opportunities at Ewood Park could hamper his chances of playing in the World Cup finals.

Tottenham have moved their FA Cup tie against Fulham to Monday 5 January as north London neighbours Arsenal are also due to play at home on Saturday 3 January against First Division Port Vale.

Sky are today expected to announce Chelsea's tie with Manchester United as their Sunday game and that they will screen Tottenham on Monday night. ITV will show Everton and Newcastle as their live game.

The FA has appointed one of the country's most senior police officers to head their security operation in the build up to World Cup finals. Brian Hayes, the deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, will be seconded to the FA on a part-time basis until 30 April, from when he will work full time.

– Catherine Riley



Zack Crockett, the Indianapolis Colts' running back touches down during their 22-14 defeat of the New York Jets in the NFL on Sunday Photograph: Bill Kostroun/AP

Stewart's slash-and-burn method

Kordell Stewart, living up to his nickname of "Slash" for his running and passing prowess, threw for three touchdowns and ran for two more as the Pittsburgh Steelers beat Denver 35-24 to earn a place in the NFL play-offs on Sunday.

Stewart completed 18 of 29 passes for 303 yards and ran 10 times for 49 yards to lead a Steelers fightback from 21-7 behind. Jerome Bettis ran 24 times for 125 yards and moved within 106 yards of the club record for rushing yards in a season.

However, the Steelers were not assured of a play-off place until the New York Jets were upset 22-14 at home by Indianapolis, the NFL's bottom team with only two victories.

Pittsburgh also gained the lead of the AFC Central Division and a possible first-round bye when Jacksonville lost 26-20 to New England in a rematch of last year's AFC play-off final.

Drew Bledsoe threw for 234 yards and two touchdowns as the Patriots ended Jacksonville's home winning streak of 13 games despite the absence of their leading rusher Curtis Martin and receiver Terry Glenn.

Kansas City also earned a place in the play-offs when beating Oakland 30-0. With Denver's loss, the Chiefs and Denver, already through, now share the lead of the AFC West Division. The Chiefs have the edge in the chase for home advantage because they finish the regular season against two clubs with losing records, San Diego and New Orleans.

Seven play-off places are still at stake with each clubs having two games to play before the regular season ends on 22 December. San Francisco and the reigning Super Bowl champions Green Bay are already through. Green Bay beat Tampa Bay 17-6 in a key NFC Central Division game to join San Francisco, who beat Minnesota 28-17, with a first-round bye.

HOCKEY

Cambridge University prove upsetting for city counterparts

In a bleak weekend for leaders in the regional leagues, only Robinsons, 3-1 winners away to Clevedon in the West Premier, secured maximum points. The weekend's biggest surprise was in the Adnams East Premier where Cambridge University beat Cambridge City 3-2. City dropped to third place.

The students gave an early warning to Oxford of their intention to retain the Deloitte & Touche Varsity Bowl which they won against the odds last season. Playing without their captain Mike Meredith and the leading striker John Mayer, they came from behind to beat City.

Gareth Playfair put the University back on terms after an early City goal from their captain Mike Mitcham. Mark Routledge restored their lead, with the turning point coming when the fourth year engineering student Henry Eard saved a penalty stroke. Goals in the last six minutes from Dave Heathcote and Mike Stather gave the University the points.

In an all round team performance Thierry Gruislin, the Belgium international, and Alister Cotton, son of the former Great Britain manager and player Bernie, were outstanding.

Eastcote, with goals from Peter Gibbons and Danny Geach, threw away a 2-1 lead against Winchester in the ESL South Premier to lose 3-2 but still have a two-point cushion over Chichester, who beat Trojans 4-2.

In the North, Neston, beaten 2-0 by Sheffield Bankers, still hold a one-point lead ahead of Norton, while in the DTZ Midland Premier Khalsa, held to a 3-3 draw by Harborne, lead Edgbaston also by one point.

– Bill Colwill

How rallying's fast master turned tradition on its head

Who is Britain's best driver in motor sport? Damon Hill? David Coulthard? Johnny Herbert? There is a powerful case for arguing he is none of these, but instead Colin McRae.

It is difficult enough to compare grand prix drivers across the generations let alone exponents of racing with rally men. However, while the Britons in F1 cannot be considered the equal of Michael Schumacher, McRae is widely recognised as the most gifted driver in rallying.

And although you can debate forever the relative merits of racing and rally drivers, the latter fraternity have generally had the better of recorded dual-discipline challenges. McRae's counsel rests his case.

McRae, having evicted the gremlins from the engine of his Subaru, won the last three rounds of this year's world championship and missed out on his second title by one point. Just a few years ago, such a scenario for a British rally driver would have been unthinkable.

The Scot's defiance of tradition and anti-British prejudice is captured in "Colin McRae – Rallying's Fast Master" by David Williams (Haynes Publishing, £12.99). "His awesome capabilities have become impossible to overlook," the author says.

McRae fits perfectly the mould of the reluctant superstar. He is enduringly and endearingly unpretentious, yet has made concessions to the demands of sport at the highest level. He has given up his bacon butties (it is alleged) for a healthier diet and adheres to a strict training regime.

The book leaves you craving more from the man, about himself, about others. But then he is not the most expressive character in motor sport, not with words anyway. When he is in the car it is a different matter: eloquence on wheels.

Who is Britain's best driver never to have won a world championship? That is easier. Indeed, there are those who would suggest Stirling Moss was the greatest British driver of them all.

Moss has left almost as many books as despairing opponents in his wake and even now, 35 years since his retirement, he is inspiring literary and photographic tributes. "Stirling Moss – Racing With the Maestro" by Karl Ludvigsen (Haynes Publishing, £24.99) is a worthy addition to the list.

The words recall Moss's extraordinary versatility – he competed in rallies and sprints as well as races of many kinds – and his search for perfection in the face of sneering from within a predominantly amateur environment, and – above all – his sportsmanship.

The book's real appeal, however, as Ludvigsen acknowledges, is its picture content. Mainly black and white, they transport us to an age before rampant commercialism, crash barriers, run-off areas and, in Moss's case, seat-belts.

Moss's most treasured win was in the 1955 Mille Miglia, while his finest grand prix success was probably his single-handed defeat of Ferrari at Monaco in 1961. Little wonder Enzo Ferrari endeavoured to lure the Englishman to Maranello and ultimately the offer of a car built to Moss's specification proved irresistible to the hitherto stubborn patriot. Alas, he was seriously injured at Goodwood three weeks after the deal with Ferrari was agreed and did not compete in grand prix racing again.

The Italian marque's fortunes have fluctuated ever since and "Fifty Years of Ferrari" by Alan Henry (Haynes Publishing, £24.99) records the unfolding drama. Aficionados will be drooling over the pictures here, although the same cannot be said of the photography in "Ferrari – The Passion and the Pain" by Jane Nottage (Collins Willow, £29.99).

The author's portrayal of life inside the stable of the Prancing Horse is compromised also by political expediencies and sloppy editing, and at £30 you might need a budget of Ferrari's proportions to afford it. But at least some of the technical insight gleaned from two years' dogged investigation should be appreciated by the anoraks.

– Derick Allsop

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

SPORTING DIGEST

BOXING

Hamed homes in on Kelley

Prince Naseem Hamed arrived in New York for his World Boxing Organisation title defence in confident mood last night. As expected Hamed, who meets Kevin Kelley at the mecca of boxing, Madison Square Garden, on 19 December, was dismissive of his opponent.

"Something drastic could happen to Kelley in the first round. I don't want to sound awful in saying that, but boxing is boxing. All I want to do is win," he said.

"He's been shooting his mouth off a bit and he deserves to be taken out – and I'll take him out in style. The Brits are coming and going to America as one – and we'll see if we come back losers. When you are with me, you're going on a winning show and you're going to come back a winner."

It will be Hamed's American debut after signing a multi-million dollar deal with the cable network Home Box Office.

"Nerves? I have to look up that word in a dictionary," Hamed added. "You haven't heard that in my conversation or the word 'losing'. I don't ever think about negatives.

"I want to be in boxing for five, six, seven, eight years, as long as I want. The money I'm going to make is unlimited – multi-millions."

Hamed is looking for a property in the London area and maybe a house in America, but added: "I can't see me emigrating out there."

The last time Hamed left Terminal Three for the United States, he was involved in his fracas with Chris Eubank, which earned both men a warning from the British Board of Control.

Hamed concluded: "I've realised the man, at 30-odd, is trying to make publicity out of me, steal the limelight, pull publicity stunts because he's out of the game."

American football

NFL: Baltimore 31 Seattle 24; Chicago 20 Buffalo 3; Jacksonville 20 New England 26; Kansas City 30 Oakland 0; New Orleans 27 St Louis 34; Philadelphia 21 NY Giants 31; Pittsburgh 35 Denver 24; Tampa Bay 6 Green Bay 17; Arizona 28 Washington 38; NY Jets 14 Indianapolis 22; San Diego 3 Atlanta 41; San Francisco 28 Minnesota 17; Miami 33 Detroit 30.

Basketball

NBA: Toronto 83 Detroit 93; Philadelphia 93 New York 78; Milwaukee 97 Seattle 91; Phoenix 97 Indiana 99 (aet); Denver 100 LA Clippers 82; Sacramento 99 Golden State 84; LA Lakers 84 Cleveland 94.

Boxing

Willie Pastrano, who began boxing to lose weight and eventually won the worlds light heavyweight title in 1963, has died at the age of 62 from cancer.

Cricket

The veteran Worcestershire all-rounder Tom Moody has been recalled to the Australian side for the limited overs international with South Africa in Melbourne today. Moody replaces pace bowler Glenn McGrath, who injured a stomach muscle in Sunday's three-wicket win over New Zealand.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Perth): Western Australia 404 for 9 dec (T Moody 85, J Langer 54) and 372 for 9 dec (J Langer 123); Tasmania 360 for 8 dec (D Boon 146) and 172 (J Angel 4-27). Western Australia won by 165 runs.

Equestrianism

VOLVO WORLD CUP QUALIFIER (Seville): 1 Baladin du Mesnil (X Caumont) fr clear; 2 Nine horses tied including Virtual Village Twostep (M Whitaker, GB) 4 faults. Selected GB: 11 Toggi Samoens (T Stoddale) 8 faults.

Football

Steve Daley, the former Wolves and Manchester City player, has been sacked as manager of Telford United after only four months in charge of the Vauxhall Conference club – his first managerial job.

ITV have confirmed that they will screen live the third round FA Cup tie between Everton and Newcastle on Sunday 4 January (2.0).

Anderlecht have re-appointed Dutchman Arie Haan as coach to succeed Rene Vandereycken, who was sacked last week. Haan coached the Brussels club between 1985 and 1987.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Fixture changes: Fri 19 Dec: Oldham v Walsall, Southend v York, Colchester v Chester, Doncaster v Rotherham, Scarborough v Barnet (all from 20 Dec); Fri 16 Jan: Stoke v Bradford City (from 17 Jan).

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Fixture change: Fri 19 Dec: Stevenage v Cheltenham (from 20 Dec).

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: International friendly (Johannesburg): South Africa 1 (Mahlaela 72) Brazil 2 (Romario 10, Bebeto 37). Italian League: Fiorentina 1 (Morfeo 57) Parma 1 (Apolloni 54). Spanish League: Real Betis 3 (George 6, 18, 35) Tenerife 0; Celta Vigo 2 (Cedada 8, Karpin 40) Valladolid 0; Salamanca 4 (Paulete 66, 70, 90, Cesar Brito 75) Deportivo La Coruña 1 (Mader 16); Compostela 1 (Chen 23) Athletic Bilbao 4 (Etxeberria 12, 88, Guerrero 71, 83); Merida 1 (Baiano 4) Racing Santander 2 (Guerrero 82, Tete 85); Real Sociedad 1 (Arista 58) Valencia 1 (Mendieta 78). French League: Bastia 0 Toulouse 0; Marseilles 0 RWD Montpellier 0. German League: VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Pralger 55) Hansa Rostock 1 (Barbarez pen 74). Dutch League: Utrecht 5 Vitesse Arnhem 3; Groningen 2 NAV Maastricht 3; NEC Nijmegen 3 Feyenoord 2; Willem II Tilburg 4 PSV Eindhoven 1. Portuguese League: Rio Ave 3 Vitoria Setubal 0; Academica Coimbra 0 Belenenses 0; Farense 1 Estrela da Amadora 1; Benfica 2 Salgueiros 2. Belgian League: Bandracht Aalst 1 Club Bruges 4; Excelsior Mouscron 4 RWD Molenbeek 0.

Ice hockey

Manchester's Dominic Maltais has been banned for six matches and fined £500 after kicking an opponent during Storms 5-3 defeat against Nottingham Panthers on 25 November.

NHL: Florida 5 Washington 4; Chicago 3 Edmonton 3.

Olympic Games

The International Olympic Committee has lifted its ban on Ecuador from the Olympic movement. The IOC suspended the country in September because it was unhappy with the way it was running its national committee.

Rugby League

First and Second Division clubs meet today to work out their structure for next season, with the status quo of two divisions likely to remain in place, even though there are now only 19 clubs outside Super League. Blackpool Gladiators, whose funding was stopped by the clubs last month, could make a late bid for reinstatement.

Featherstone Rovers, one First Division club with Super League ambitions, say they will allow their Great Britain prop, Steve Molloy, to leave.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Second-round draw: Chameleon v Saddleworth Rangers, Eastmoor Dragons v Leeds University, Worth Village v Thornhill, Moldgreen v Siddal, Redhill v Lock Lane, Folly Lane or Normanton Knights v Askern, Hunslet Warriors v Milom, BRA v Leigh East, Walney Central v Leigh Miners Rangers, Wooleton Rovers v Oldham St Annes, Haydock v Waterhead, Stanningley v Farnworth, Wigan Rosebridge v West Hull, Myton Warriors v Moorland, Ellenborough Rangers v Queensbury, Dudley Hill v Skirlaugh Bulls, Queens v Beverley, Haworth v Clayton, Ovenden v Wigan St Patricks, Dewsbury Moor v Dutton Raiders, Mayfield v Featherstone Lions, Egremont Rangers v Hull Dockers. Ties to be played weekend of 20 December.

Rugby Union

Ireland's seven-match tour to South Africa next May and June will include two Tests against the Springboks. Ireland will play Scotland under lights for the first time in an A international at Donnybrook on 6 February.

A sin-bin system will be introduced by the Irish RFU, on an experimental basis, in AIB League Divisions One and Two matches from 3 January.

Snooker

GERMAN OPEN (Bingen): T Drago (Mal) bt Q Hann (Aus) 5-3.

Tennis

A bomb that ripped a hole in Magnus Larsson's rented car last week was placed at random under the car minutes before it exploded, Vaxjo police said yesterday.

Weightlifting

Meng Xian Juan set a clean and jerk world record of 117.5kg and won all three gold medals in the women's 54kg category in Thailand yesterday.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Chang Mai, Thai): Men's 64kg: 1 Xiao Jian Gang (China) snatch 142.5, jerk 175.0, total 317.5; 2 H Suleymanoglu (Tur) 145.0, 170.0, 315.0; 3 A Melikhov (Azer) 132.5, 172.5, 305.0. Women's 54kg: 1 Meng Xian Juan (China) 87.5, 117.5, 205.0; 2 Ri Song Hui (N Kor) 85.0, 110.0 195.0; 3 S Damsaeng (Thai) 85.0, 110.0, 195.0.

TODAY'S NUMBER

3

The number of Russian swimmers claiming they failed a drugs test because they ate a spiked cake. Natalya Meshcheryakova, Vladimir Pyshnenko and Olga Kochetkova, who all tested positive for the steroid metandieone, say they were set up by an unnamed fourth swimmer who added the drug to a cake she had baked.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

UEFA CUP THIRD ROUND SECOND LEG
Aston Villa (1) v St Bucharest (2) (7.45)

Other ties: Lazio (2) v Rapid Vienna (0) (7.45); Schalke 04 (0) v Braga (0); Auxerre (1) v Twente Enschede (0) (7.0); Atletico Madrid (1) v Croatia Zagreb (1) (8.30); Internazionale (0) v Strasbourg (2) (7.45); Vfl. Bochum (2) v Ajax (4); Spartak Moscow (0) v Karlsruhe (0) (5.0).

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION
Charlton v Sheffield Utd (7.45)
Portsmouth v Wolves (7.45)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD
NORTHERN SECTION FIRST ROUND
Carlisle v Oldham (7.45)
Chesterfield v Grimsby (7.45)
Doncaster v Rochdale
Hull v Scarborough
Preston v Darlington (7.45)
Scunthorpe v Chester
Wigan v Lincoln City (7.45)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD
SOUTHERN SECTION FIRST ROUND
Barnet v Walsall (7.45)
Cardiff v Millwall
Fulham v Watford (7.45)
Gillingham v Peterborough (7.45)
Leyton Orient v Colchester (7.45)
Northampton v Plymouth (7.45)
Southend v Wycombe (7.45)

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
Halifax v Northwich (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
Aberdeen v Celtic (7.45)
Dundee Utd v Hearts (7.45)

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP
FIRST-ROUND REPLAY
Montrose v Cowdenbeath

FA OF WALES INVITATION CUP Group B: Newtown v Merthyr Tydfil.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Dr Martens League XI v FA XI (at Gloucester Cty).

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Altrincham v Hyde; Frickley v Winsford; Marine v Accrington Stanley; Runcorn v Lancaster. Unifilla First Division Cup first round: Witton Albion v Trafford. Second round: Belper v Burton; Droylsden v Flixton; Harrogate Town v Lincoln Utd.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Division: Sutton Coldfield v Stafford Rangers (7.45). League Cup second round: Cambridge City v Hinckley Utd; Fisher Athletic v Chelmsford City; Grantham v Raunds; Redditch v Bilston; Stourbridge v Solihull Borough; Sutton Coldfield v Blakenall.

RYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Berkhamsted v Aldershot (7.45). Third Division: Flackwell Heath v Harlow; Ford Utd v Southall; Ware v Lewes (7.45); Wingate & Finchley v Aveley (7.45).

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Sudbury Wanderers v Soham (7.45). League Cup second round (7.45): Great Yarmouth v Warboys; Hadleigh v Gorleston; Lowestoft v Histon; Sudbury Town v Norwich Utd; Tiptree v Woodbridge.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Bemerton Heath Harlequins v BAT Sports; Bournemouth FC v East Cowes Vics; Portsmouth RN v Newbury.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Arnold v Hatfield Main.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Kings Norton v Stapenhill (7.45); West Midlands Police v Barwell.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Langney Sports v Hassocks; Pagham v Horsham YMCA; Portfield v Shoreham (7.15). John O'Hara League Cup third round: Burgess Hill v Whitehawk.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Ramsgate v Thamesmead (7.45); Whitstable v Slade Green (7.45).

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Sheffield Wednesday v Derby (7.0). First Division: Coventry v Sunderland (7.0); Manchester City v West Bromwich Albion (7.0) (at Altrincham); Notts County v Huddersfield (7.0).

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Second round: Blackpool v Everton (7.0); Exeter City v Arsenal, Queens Park Rangers v Southend Utd (7.0) (at Yeading); Plymouth Argyle v Fulham (7.0); Wycombe Wanderers v Welling Utd. Second-round replay: Tranmere Rovers v Sheffield Utd (7.0); Crystal Palace v Norwich City (at Plough Lane).

Rugby Union

VARSITY MATCH (for The Bowring Bowl): Oxford University v Cambridge University (2.0) (at Twickenham).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Royal Navy v Royal New Zealand Navy (7.0) (at US Portsmouth).

CLUB MATCH: Bristol University v University of West of England (7.30) (at Bristol RFC).

Other sports

BOWLS: Scottish Masters (at Coatbridge).

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Yorke injury threatens Villa's chance of progress

Aston Villa fly the flag for England in the Uefa Cup tonight. But, reports *Phil Shaw*, they might have to overcome a 2-1 deficit against Steaua Bucharest without their Tobagan talisman.

Dwight Yorke, whose goals in Europe have helped to keep Aston Villa's anticlimactic season alive, may miss the second leg of their Uefa Cup third-round tie against Steaua Bucharest at Villa Park tonight because of an injury which has mystified the club's medical staff.

The Trinidad and Tobagan international followed up his winner against Athletic Bilbao with a potentially precious away goal in the Romanian capital after Villa had conceded twice in quick succession. However, he limped out of Saturday's victory over Coventry and was unable to join an otherwise fully fit squad in training yesterday.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, said Yorke's problem had defeated diagnosis. "It started out as a sharp pain in his heel, then moved to the back of the foot. It could be a calf, or a tendon connected with the Achilles, or it might just disappear.

"Dwight's very important to us – his availability will settle the team and the formation – but I wouldn't gamble on anyone if it could mean a long-term injury."

Little will probably restore Fernando Nelson and Ian Taylor to midfield, where Yorke has been operating as a deep-lying attacker while Savo Milosevic and Stan Collymore hold the main striking roles. Lee Hendrie, 20, who scored against Coventry after replacing Yorke, could be used as a straight replacement but is more likely to start on the bench.

Villa, striving for a place in the Uefa Cup quarter-finals for the first time since their manager partnered Andy Gray up front 20 years ago, have won their last three home matches. But Little said: "We're kidding ourselves if we think we've got the advantage. They start one up and knowing they have gone through on away goals before [against Bastia]."

Steaua would enjoy playing on the Villa Park pitch, he added in a veiled aside about the poor surface in Bucharest. "Their counter-attacking ability is their major strength," he cautioned.

Mihai Stoichita, the Steaua coach, later echoed Little's sentiments. "I'm very confident we'll go through," he said. "It'll be tough but it'll suit us playing on a decent surface. Villa have to push forward, so we can exploit the space behind their wing-backs. We always score away from home."

Since the first leg, England and Romania have been paired in next year's World Cup finals. Despite the fact that only two Steaua players, Marius Lacatus and Iosif Rotariu, are in their national squad, Little felt the draw had given the game "added edge".

Stoichita, an admirer of Glenn Hoddle's attempt to marry traditional English virtues to greater technique, went further: "This game will be like the opening night of the World Cup. Whoever wins will see it as a good omen."

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, would view victory in rather more practical terms. He has calculated that the club could make £5m by reaching the final.

McCann to sell off his share of Celtic in 1999

Fergus McCann, Celtic's owner, plans to sell his shareholding and retire in 18 months' time but yesterday he said he would ensure there was no hostile take-over of the Scottish Premier League club.

McCann, a Scots-born Canadian who has turned the club's finances around since taking control in 1994, said in a statement released on the London Stock Exchange that he would retire in mid-1999.

"Suggested take-overs are complete nonsense as I hold just over 50 per cent of the ordinary shares. That makes a takeover impossible without my consent," McCann said.

"Ideally I would like to find a way to make some of my shares available to existing shareholders. However, I think the most likely scenario will be a mixture of existing shareholders and institutions. What I will guarantee is that ownership of the club will not fall into the wrong hands."

When McCann bought 146,000 shares, a 51 per cent stake in Celtic, for £9m in 1994, he said the club faced bankruptcy, had a very poor stadium and only 7,100 season ticket-holders.

They are now close to completion of a £30m stadium with seating for more than 60,000, making it the largest in Britain.

The club was now financially secure, more than £20m had been invested in new players and there were 40,000 season ticket-holders, he said. Celtic shares are currently quoted at £250 pounds each.

The Celtic coach Wim Jansen hopes the imminent arrival of Harald Brattbakk will help to put his team back into title contention at Pittodrie tonight.

With the Norwegian due in Glasgow on Thursday to complete his £2m move from Rosenborg, the likes of strikers Simon Donnelly and Darren Jackson will be under extra scrutiny against Aberdeen.

After Saturday's 0-0 draw at Kilmarnock, another blank would put a serious dent in Celtic's hopes of maintaining a championship challenge.

Already six points behind Rangers and seven behind leaders Hearts, Jansen knows his men cannot afford any more slip-ups against Alex Miller's strugglers.

Winger Regi Blinker returns after serving a one-match suspension and looks likely to be asked to provide the ammunition for a lacklustre front line.

Jansen said: "I hope the strikers give me a problem when Harald arrives. If we want to get up the league we know we have to win these type of games and if we lose points here then we make problems for ourselves.

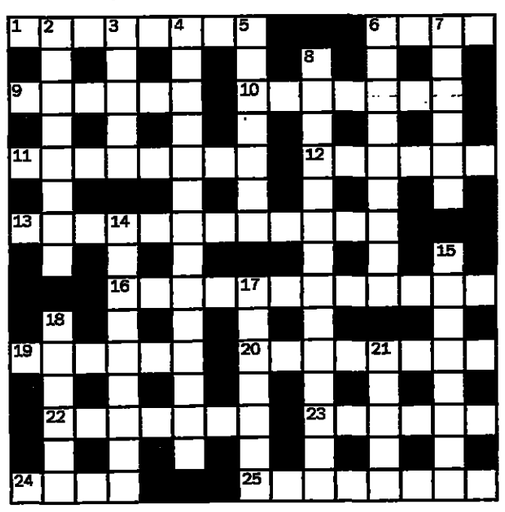
"The whole team didn't really look as sharp on Saturday as they did in our two games against Dundee United.

"The way we play they need to be sharp to get back to winning games but it is the individuals in any system that make the difference."

Sweden's Henrik Larsson looks the most likely partner for Brattbakk when he is ready for action, but Jansen may decide the time has come to give Jackson a place from the start after three substitute appearances on his return from brain surgery.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3477. Tuesday 9 December — By Aelred



ACROSS

1 New hope round university brought back atmosphere of elation (8)
6 Show sorrow for heartless devoutness (4)
9 Agreement to produce mains flex (6)
10 My son travelling round US city has to find another name (7)
11 British have followed teachers like Hazel (8)
12 Feline let loose could kill these (6)
13 Extra classes for those not very good at adding? (6,6)
16 Current cute expert has grasped name of slight friend (12)
19 Material with which it's possible to take action (6)
20 Ghostly aspect to left and right, shimmering (8)
22 Pattern specially made for clients (7)
23 Cold fellow's stiff (6)
24 Two out of four could be radical (4)
25 Reap changes to sharpen sound in this? (8)

DOWN

2 Count us out after Unionist becomes oily (8)
3 Initially high, very high, cost of doomsday weapon (1-4)
4 Killer hurts they say; that could account for it (5-9)
5 Moving pictures by artist to be put up? It's elementary (7)
6 Criticise soundly a cashier's cigar (9)
7 But elm, diseased, has to come down (6)
8 Not told because one's lost? (11-3)
14 Most stingy about street poverty criterion (5,4)
15 Almost where William came from to go to Jerusalem one time (8)
17 Awful slob in prayer to forgive (7)
18 Depicting one as conservative in Foreign Office is a disaster (6)
21 High time to reverse positions of leg (5)

Monday's Solution

MUTTER RUGGED
P O E E L D
BATTLEBUS OWING
A I D U E S T I
SIGN STANDSTILL
S H T T O O D
ESTONIAN VENUE
T O L A E D
HERTS SCARCITY
O A T B C N O
UNGRACIOUS ECRU
N T L G R S L I
DOING EASYTOUCH
M I N E A D
REWARD DEGREE

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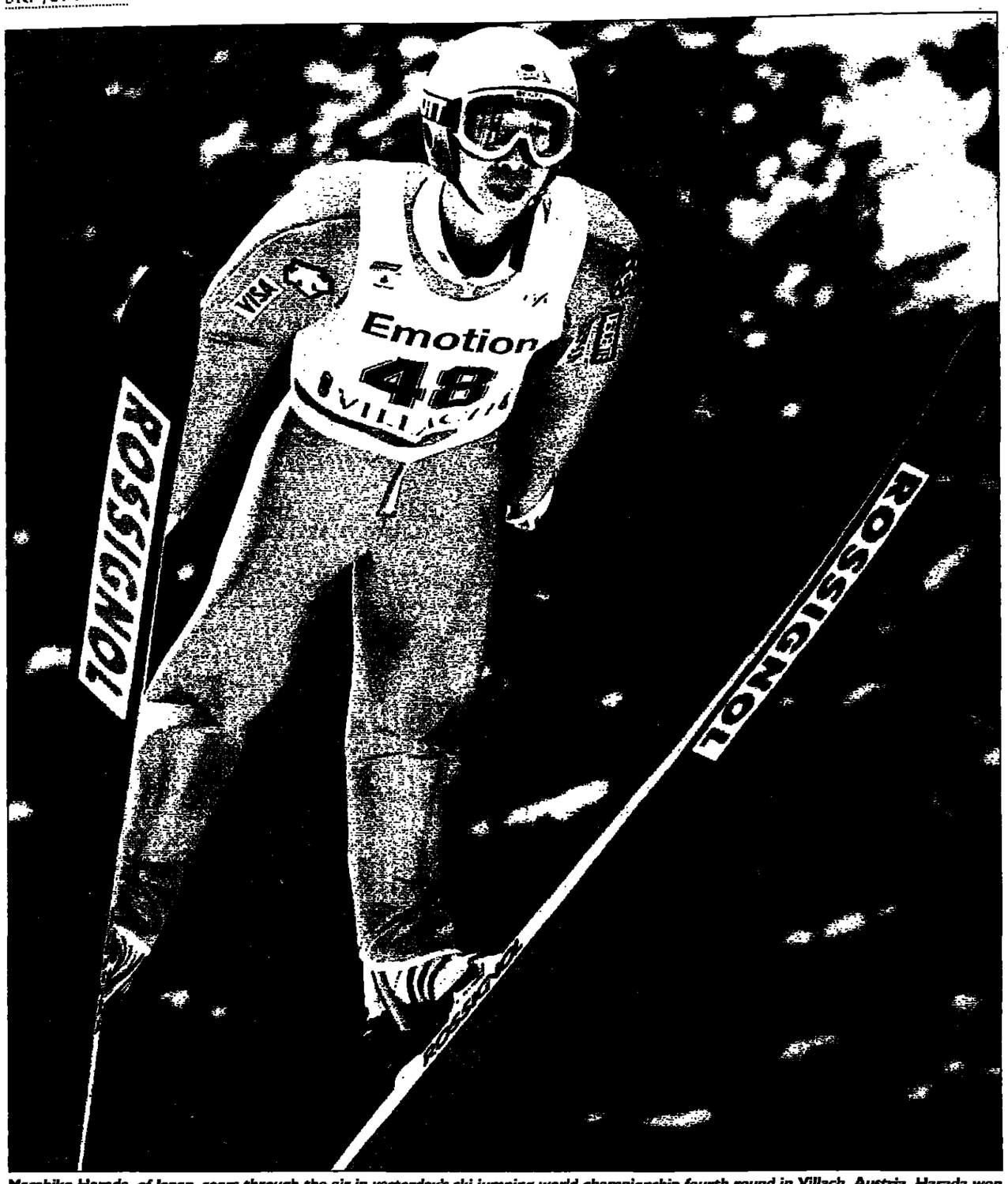
SKI JUMPING



Masahiko Harada, of Japan, soars through the air in yesterday's ski jumping world championship fourth round in Villach, Austria. Harada won the event – with jumps of 90.5 metres and 95m – ahead of the German Dieter Thoma Photograph: Gert Eggenberger/AP

TENNIS

Henman told by McEnroe to be meaner

Tim Henman is ready to take John McEnroe's advice and forsake his "good guy" image in a bid for tennis greatness.

Last week McEnroe told Britain's No 2 that he was "too nice" and needed to add meanness to his developing game. And following a long chat and 30-minute practice session with the 38-year-old McEnroe at the Royal Albert Hall's ATP Seniors Event last weekend, Henman agrees.

"I am very competitive but sometimes my demeanour is maybe too calm on court," Henman said. "I can show more emotion and McEnroe implied that if I let my inner feelings out a bit more it could help me. Any time you get advice from someone who has achieved what he has you should listen."

If it means the 23-year-old Oxfordshire player has to lose his "Mr Wonderful" tag in order to become the first Briton since Fred Perry 61 years ago to win Wimbledon, then so be it.

"I couldn't give a monkey's what people think about me. I want to achieve on a tennis court. If people were against me and didn't like me but I was winning major championships, I'd take that any day of the week," said Henman, who was speaking at the Midland Bank Schools Tennis finals in Telford, yesterday.

"You're not going to see me swearing or breaking rackets during matches but to go to the very, very top I have to be more consistent and if I can be more aggressive that will probably help."

But while Henman is eager to learn from the sport's most controversial and colourful character, he disagrees with McEnroe's assertion that today's players don't have enough desire.

He rejects McEnroe's boast that the Borg-Connors-McEnroe battles of the late 70s and early 80s were the golden era of tennis. "The overall depth in the game is much more now than in McEnroe's day," said Henman, who rose to No 17 in the world this year but saw Greg Rusedski pass him to become Britain's top player and world No 6.

"In 1980 there weren't more than a handful of potential winners of the major tournaments. In 1997, 20, 30 or even 40 guys could easily win the top events."